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PAIX-TRAVAIL-PATRIE**

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



REPORT OF THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN CAMEROON IN 2021

Yaounde, February 2023

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Report of the Ministry of Justice on
Human Rights in Cameroon in 2021

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Foreword

« In all circumstances, we must promote constructive and regular dialogue between the various sociological components of the Republic in order to mobilize them for our country's emergence. »

Head of State's New Year Message to the
Nation on 31 December 2021.

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Report of the Ministry of Justice on Human Rights in Cameroon in 2021

ADMINISTRATIVE MAP OF CAMEROON

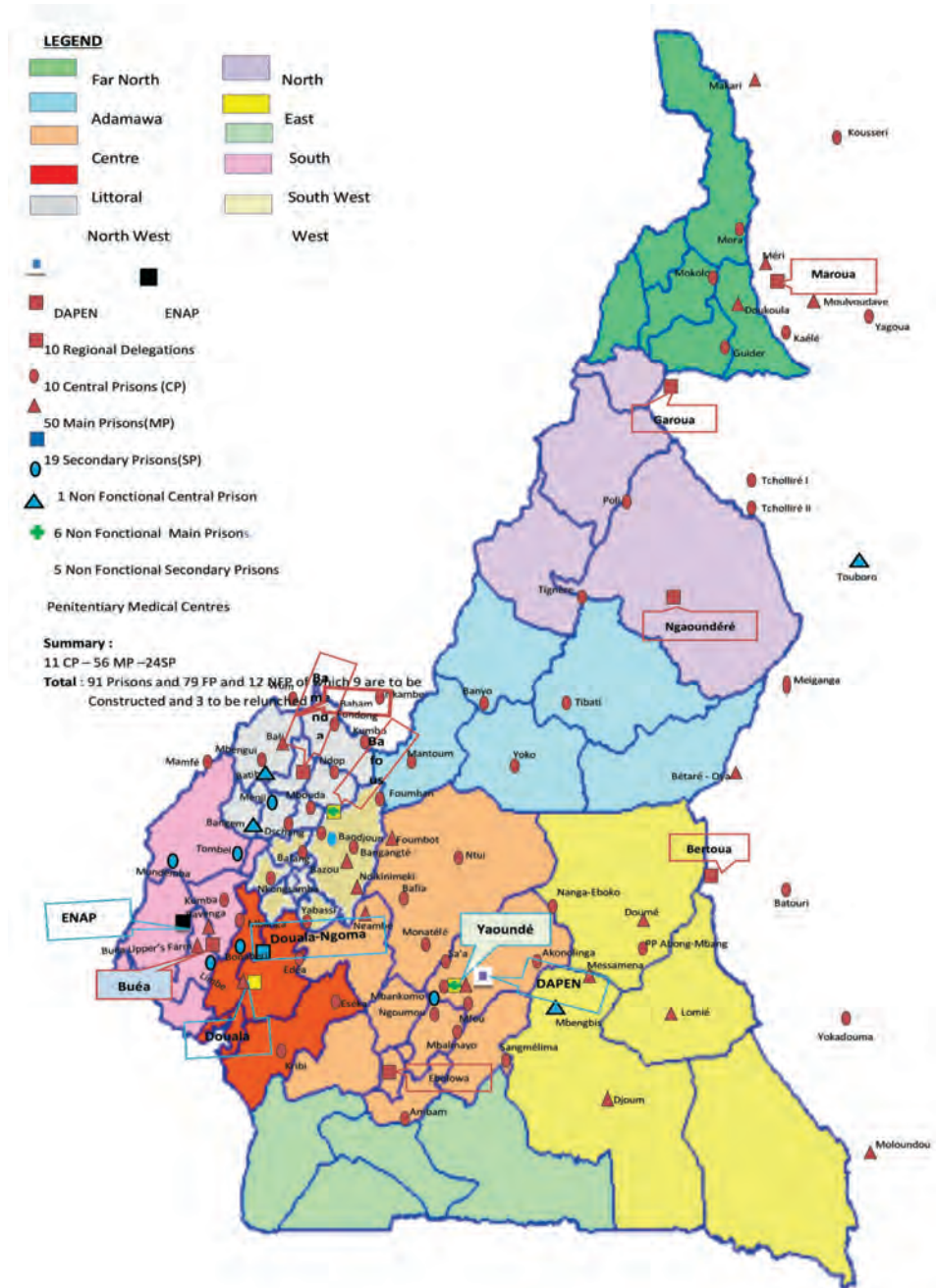


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PENITENTIARY ADMINISTRATION MAP OF CAMEROON



List of Acronyms and Abbreviations

...	: Results not available
///	: Empty box due to the nature of the things
ACEWC	: African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child
ACHPR	: African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights
AfCFTA	: African Continental Free Trade Agreement
AFCON TotalEnergies	: African Cup of Nations TotalEnergies
ANOR	: Standards and Quality Agency
ANTIC	: National Agency for Information and Communication Technologies
APME	: Small and Medium sized Enterprises Promotion Agency
APSTA	: African Peace Support Trainers Association
APURCE	: Association for the Promotion of Responsible Use of Cyber Space
ART	: Telecommunications Regulatory Board
BADEA	: Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa
BFDC	: Budget and Financial Disciplinary Council
BIR	: Rapid Intervention Battalion
BVMAC	: Central African Stock Exchange
CAMIFF	: Cameroon International Film Festival
CAPIET	: Teacher's Certificate of Technical Education
CAR	: Central African Republic
CAWOPEM	: Cameroon Women's Peace Movement
CBF	: Cameroon Business Forum
CBHS	: Cameroon Baptist Convention Health Services
CDPM	: Maritime Fisheries Development Fund
CENEEMA	: Agricultural Mechanization Study and Experimentation Centre
CFC	: Cameroon Housing Loan Fund
CFCE	: Centres for Business Creation Formality

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CFI	: Court of First Instance
CHRC	: Cameroon Human Rights Commission
CIPCRE	: <i>Centre International pour la promotion de la Création</i>
CLTS	: Community Led Total Sanitation
CMPJ	: Multipurpose Youth Empowerment Centres
COMIFAC	: Commission of Central African Forest
CONSUPE	: Supreme State Audit
COREP	: Regional Fisheries Commission for the Gulf of Guinea
CPFF	: Women Empowerment Centres
CSO	: Civil Society Organisations
DAJEI	: Department of Legal Affairs and Information
DDHCI	: Department of Human Rights and International Cooperation
DDR	: Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration
DEP	: Division for Research and Planning
DSF	: Defence and Security Forces
ECCAS	: Economic Community of Central African States
EIFORCES	: International School for Security Forces
EIS	: Environmental Information System
EITI	: Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative
ELECAM	: Elections Cameroon
EMIS	: Education Management Information System
ENAM	: National School of Administration and Magistracy
ENAP	: National School of Penitentiary Administration
ESIA	: Environmental and Social Impact Assessment
ESMPs	: Environmental and Social Management Plans
FATF	: Financial Action Task Force
FCPF	: Forest Carbon Partnership Facility
FDSE	: Electricity Sector Development Fund
FEICOM	: Special Council Support Fund for Mutual Assistance
FESMUDAP	: Patrimonial Music and Dance Festival
FIDA	: International Federation of Women Lawyers
FLO	: Forces of Law and Order
FLSH	: Faculty of Letters and Human Science

FMSP	: Faculty of Medicine and Pharmaceutical Science
FONIJ	: National Fund for Youth Integration
FSEGA	: Faculty of Economics and Applied Management
FSLC	: First School Leaving Certificate
GABAC	: Task Force on Money Laundering in Central Africa
GBV	: Gender Based Violence
GICAM	: <i>Groupement Inter-Patronal du Cameroun</i>
HC	: High Court
HIMO	: High Intensity Labour Approach
HTTC	: Higher Technical Teacher Training College
ICRC	: International Committee of the Red Cross
ICTs	: Information and Communication Technologies
IDP	: Internally Displaced Persons
IEDs	: Improvised Explosive Devices
IGAPEN	: Inspectorate General of Penitentiary Administration
IGJS	: Inspectorate General of Judicial Services
IAs	: International Investment Agreements
IITA	: International Institute of Tropical Agriculture
ILO	: International Labour Office
IOM	: International Organisation for Migration
IRAD	: Institute of Agricultural Research for Development
ISMP	: Advanced Institute of Public Management
ITTO	: International Tropical Timber Organisation
JPO	: Judicial Police Officers
LANACOME	: National Laboratory for the Quality Control of Drugs and Expertise
LINAFI	: Nautical Arts and Fisheries Institute
LLINs	: Long Lasting Insecticidal Nets
MBOSCUA	: Mbororo Social and Cultural Development Association
MINADER	: Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
MINAS	: Ministry of Social Affairs
MINDDEVEL	: Ministry of Decentralisation and Local Development
MINDEF	: Ministry of Defence
MINEE	: Ministry of Water Resources and Energy
MINEFOP	: Ministry of Employment and Vocational Training

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MINEPDED	: Ministry of Environment, Nature Protection and Sustainable Development
MINEPIA	: Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Animal Industries
MINFI	: Ministry of Finance
MINFOPRA	: Ministry of Public Service and Administrative Reform
MINHDU	: Ministry of Housing and Urban Development
MINJEC	: Ministry of Youth Affairs and Civic Education
MINJUSTICE	: Ministry of Justice
MINPMEESA	: Ministry of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises, Social Economy and Handicrafts
MINPROFF	: Ministry of Women's Empowerment and the Family
MINREX	: Ministry of External Relations
MINSEP	: Ministry of Sports and Physical Education
MIPROMALO	: Local Materials Promotion Authority
MNJTF	: Multinational Joint Task Force
MOOC	: Massive open online courses
NACC	: National Anti-Corruption Commission
NAFI	: National Agency for Financial Investigation
NCC	: National Communication Council
NCPBM	: National Commission for the Promotion of Bilingualism and Multiculturalism
NDC	: Nationally Determined Contribution
NDDRC	: National Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration Committee
NDS30	: National Development Strategy
NEF	: National Employment Fund
NGP	: National Gender Policy
NIS	: National Institute of Statistics
NMCP	: National Malaria Control Programme
NSDS30	: National Strategy for the Development of Statistics
NSIF	: National Social Insurance Fund
NTFPs	: Non-Timber Forest Products
OHCHR	: Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

ONACC	: National Observatory on Climate Change
PADER	: Support Programme for Rural Development
PAEPYS	: Potable Water Supply Project in Yaounde
PAJER-U	: Rural and Urban Youth Support Project
PAMEC	: Support Programme for the Modernisation of the Civil Status Registration System
PAREC	: Economic Resilience Support Project
PECAE	: Pre-Shipment Evaluation of Conformity
PIAASI	: Support Project for Informal Sector
PLANOSCAM	: National Platform of Civil Society Organizations in Cameroon
PLANUT	: Three-Year Emergency Plan for Economic Growth
PLWHA	: Persons Living with HIV
PMTCT	: Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission of HIV
PNDP	: National Community-Driven Development Programme
RAP	: Resettlement Action Plan
REDD+	: Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
RLAs	: Regional and Local Authorities
SALW	: Small Arms and Light Weapons
SCC	: Special Criminal Court
SCDP	: Cameroon Company of Petroleum Depots
SIALY	: International Agribusiness Exhibition
SIC	: Cameroon Housing Corporation
SMEs	: Small and Medium-sized Enterprises
SODEPA	: Livestock Development Corporation
SONAMINES	: National Mining Corporation
SUP'PTIC	: National Advanced School of Posts, Telecommunications and Information and Communication Technologies
TBT	: Technical Barriers to Trade
UCCC	: United Councils and Cities of Cameroon
UN WOMEN	: The United National Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

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UNCHD-AC

: United Nations Centre for Human Rights and
Democracy in Central Africa

UNECA

: United Nations Economic Commission for Africa

UNESCO

: United Nations Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

UNICEF

: United Nations Children's Fund

UNFPA

: United Nations Population Fund

UNHCR

: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

UNSDCF

: United Nations Sustainable Development
Cooperation Framework

USEP

: Urban Special Employment Program

WFP

: World Food Programme

PREFACE

The report published yearly by the Ministry of Justice is meant to inform the public of the efforts of the Government, its partners and the entire society on the promotion and protection of Human Rights.

The year 2021, marked by the continuous fight against Covid-19, was rich in events such as the establishment of the new Cameroon Human Rights Commission, the updating of laws in many sectors such as that on associations, the promotion of volunteerism, the book industry, access to genetic resources, their derivatives, associated traditional knowledge and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits derived from their use, as well as persons with disabilities to whom special attention was given.

The promotion of Human Rights is a continuous process, with advances achieved leading to new challenges. Protecting Human Rights is first and foremost the responsibility of the State, and is as well a collective responsibility for each and every one of us.

I urge every reader to find in this Report, a reason to pursue his or her commitment to Human Rights, because to invest in the rights of a human being is to invest in the progress of humanity.

Enjoy your reading.

Laurent ESSO

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

GENERAL

INTRODUCTION

1- After the shock and turmoil caused by the outbreak of the corona virus pandemic in 2020 and related restrictive measures, 2021 was a year of adjustments and adaptation. Against this backdrop, diverse measures were taken to ensure the promotion and protection of Human Rights, both at the normative and institutional levels. Furthermore, operational measures were initiated including through the appointment and entry into office of members of the Cameroon Human Rights Commission set up in 2019¹. The year was marked by the consolidation of the achievements of previous years and by challenges.

2- In terms of civil and political rights, Law No. 90/53 of 19 December 1990 on the freedom of association was amended by Law No. 2021/22 of 16 December 2021, to subject political parties, trade unions, sports associations, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and inter-branch organisations to a special system. Law No. 2021/23 of 16 December 2021 governing inter-branch organizations in Cameroon was thus adopted. However, social media was maliciously used to spread hate speech, obscene and violent videos and fake news. This trend prompted mobilisation of forces through awareness-raising campaigns. The new members of the National Communication Council who entered into office during the year made the fight against this phenomenon a priority. The National Commission for the Promotion of Bilingualism and Multiculturalism also continued field visits to promote living together and combat hate speech.

3- Furthermore, with regard to participation in the management of public affairs, volunteering was promoted through Law No. 2021/15 of 9 July 2021 to organise and promote volunteering in Cameroon and the decentralisation process was intensified through the establishment of Regional Councils, the appointment of the first public independent conciliators and the clarification of some modalities for the exercise of transferred powers.

¹ By Decree No. 2021/107 of 19 February 2021 to appoint the Chairperson of the Cameroon Human Rights Commission (CHRC). The said Chairperson is Mr **MOUANGUE KOBILA James**. By Decree No. 2021/108 of 19 February 2021 to appoint the Vice-Chairperson of the CHRC. The said Vice Chairperson is Mr **Raphael GALEGA GANA**. By Decree No. 2021/109 to appoint the Permanent Secretary of the CHRC, namely, **Mr ABOUEM ESSEBA Jean-Pierre**. By Decree No. 2021/110 of 19 February 2021 to appoint members of the CHRC, the following members were appointed: Mrs **ASUAGBOR née AYUK Lucy**, Mrs **ENDELEY née Joyce BAYANDE MBONGO**, **BOUBA née HAMAN HAWÉ**; Messrs **BIKORO Aimé Parfait**, **AMOU-GUI Apollinaire TITE**, **SALIHOU LABARANG**, **SOULEY MANE**, **DJIBOMADOM MAMENE Dieudonné**, **SEINI BOUKAR LAMINE**, **TEZANOU Paul**, **BALLA Joseph Constantin**, **NGALLE MBONJO Jean-Marc** and **NKWEBE Denis**. These members were sworn in on 29 April 2021.

4- Although generally under control, the right to security was affected by the resurgence of inter-community conflicts, the most serious of which were the clashes between the Arab Choas and the Mousgoums in the Far North Region and attacks on schools in the South West Region. To enhance the framework for judicial cooperation, Cameroon ratified two Agreements through Decree No. 2021/243 of 27 April 2021 to ratify the extradition agreement between the Republic of Cameroon and the Federative Republic of Brazil and Decree No. 2021/244 of 27 April 2021 to ratify the Agreement between the Republic of Cameroon and the Federative Republic of Brazil on the transfer of persons sentenced to deprivation of liberty.

5- With regard to economic, social and cultural rights, Cameroon, pursuant to Decree No. 2021/246 of 27 April 2021, ratified the Agreement with the Government of the United Arab Emirates for the avoidance of double taxation and the prevention of tax evasion in respect of income tax.

6- Initiatives to promote good governance and combat corruption were intensified. Thus, with the implementation of budgetary reforms, the sustained mobilisation of non-oil revenues and the support of development partners, the State gave itself room for manoeuvre, in a context of security and health challenges, to steer development policies as defined in the National Development Strategy (NDS30). Some first-generation large scale projects were thus completed. The increase in the cost of living, due in part to the astronomical cost of maritime freight, made it possible to highlight the relevance of the import-substitution policy and to discuss with the private sector on adaptation and support measures, particularly concerning taxes. The aim was to safeguard national production and preserve job offer. At the same time, the capacity of job seekers was enhanced through increased tailored trainings. To this end, and given the context, enhanced resilience in the education system enabled it faced various challenges and maintain an acceptable supply despite attacks, one of the most brutal of which was the attack on Government Bilingual High School Ekondo-Titi, that resulted in 4 students injured and 5 deaths, including a female Teacher and 4 students.

7- The promotion of the right to health was again largely characterised by the fight against the Covid-19 pandemic. Cameroon's strategy to fight against the virus was guided by two rationales, which were saving lives

and curbing the spread of the virus. In this regard, the first vaccination campaigns were launched in April 2021. The preparation of the TotalEnergies Africa Cup of Nations 2021 was also an opportunity to renovate hospital infrastructure and improve their technical equipment. Renovations were also carried out in cities hosting the competition and these included new roads infrastructure in the tourism sector among others. The cultural dimension of the preparation of this competition was also taken into consideration, even if the resumption of mass activities was slow. At the normative level, Law No. 2021/24 of 16 December 2021 governing the organisation and promotion of the book sector in Cameroon laid the foundation for a better structuring of the industry.

8- The protection of Human Rights in the extractive industries sector was highlighted, notably through Decision No. 465/D/MINMIDT/SG/DAJ of 30 August 2021 of the Minister in charge of Mines, prohibiting access to mines by minors throughout the country, and through the operationalisation of the National Mining Corporation (SONAMINES). The managers of this new company made the fight against child labour in mines a priority, by conducting awareness-raising campaigns. The interests of the population and the protection of the environment are the pillars of the company's mission statement. In general, these 2 pillars guided the State to adopt Law No. 2021/14 of 9 July 2021 to govern access to genetic resources, their derivatives, traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from their utilisation. For the concerted management of water resources, pursuant to Decree No. 2021/754 of 28 December 2021, Cameroon ratified the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes adopted on 17 March 1992 in Helsinki. It also ratified the Agreement on the establishment of the International Network for Bamboo and Rattan adopted in Beijing on 6 November 1997 through Decree No. 2021/780 of 28 December 2021.

9- The rights of vulnerable persons were strengthened. With regard to refugees, two agreements were signed on 24 February and 25 May 2021, one between the Government and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) on health care for refugees and the other between the Government, UNHCR and the International Labour Office (ILO) on facilitating refugees' access to employment. With regard to children,

measures were taken to facilitate the registration of their births and ensure their well-being. Concerning vulnerable indigenous populations, a new National Plan for the Development of Indigenous Peoples 2021-2025 was adopted. As regards persons with disabilities, were respectively ratified, through Decree No. 2021/751 and Decree 2021/753 of 28 December 2021, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

10- With regard to women's rights, the update of certain strategic documents on the promotion of gender equality underway in 2021 provided an opportunity to assess the implementation of public policies in this area.

11- This Report gives an account of developments in 2021, highlighting progress made and challenges encountered. As usual, a collaborative approach was adopted for the drafting of the Report. The National Assembly, public administrations, independent administrative institutions, courts and civil society organisations contributed in data collection and drafting through the validation of information provided.

12- The Report has maintained its usual structure. In addition to a preliminary chapter on Cameroon's cooperation with international and regional Human Rights mechanisms, it comprises three parts namely:

- civil and political rights;
- economic, social and cultural rights and the right to a healthy environment; and
- cross-cutting issues on Human Rights and rights of specific groups.

PRELIMINARY CHAPTER

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

13- Cooperation between Cameroon and international and regional Human Rights promotion and protection mechanisms in contentious and non-contentious matters was exercised in a context of health crisis.

SECTION 1: COOPERATION IN CONTENTIOUS MATTERS

14- Within the framework of cooperation in contentious matters, new cases were submitted to some bodies, while previous decisions were followed up.

§1: Processing New Communications and Urgent Appeals

15- A total of 6 new communications were received by the State of Cameroon, including one before the Human Rights Committee, one before the Committee against Torture, 3 before the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) and one before the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC). The State also received an Urgent Appeal from the Special Rapporteur of the ACHPR on Human Rights Defenders concerning the situation of **AGBOR NKONGHO BALLA**.

16- Overall, as at 31 December 2021, 6 communications were pending against Cameroon before the Human Rights Committee, 2 before the Committee against Torture, 23 before the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, and 1 before the ACERWC.

17- Complaints filed against the State of Cameroon mainly concerned violation of the right to physical and moral integrity, violation of the right to fair trial (the right to be tried without undue delay in particular), violation of the right to education and the prohibition of child marriage, illegal arrests, arbitrary and incommunicado detentions, poor detention conditions, violation of the right to freedom of expression and communication, and insufficient civic space conducive to freedom of expression by the people.

§2: Monitoring the implementation of Previous Decisions

18- As regards the UN, 3 procedures for the follow up of implementation of recommendations were recorded, including 2 from the Human Rights Committee concerning **Etienne ABESSOLO²** and **ZOGO ANDELA Achille**

² In the context of Communication No. 2587/2015 of 16 October 2014, **Etienne ABESSOLO** vs. the State of Cameroon.

Benoit³, and one from the Human Rights Council's Working Group on Arbitrary Detention in relation to Opinion No. 1/2020 adopted on 29 April 2020 on the case of Mr **AMADOU VAMOULKE**. In each of the cases, the State of Cameroon provided information on measures taken to implement the recommendations made by the Human Rights mechanisms concerned. It also highlighted constraints and difficulties encountered regarding some of these recommendations.

19- At the level of the African Union, in March 2021, during the hearing on the implementation of the decision in the Communication concerning young **T.F.A**⁴ organised by ACERWC, Cameroon reported on measures taken to implement the said decision.

20- As for individual measures, the Government indicated that the victim was enrolled in a school and the sum of CFAF 500,000⁵ had been made available to support her, pending payment of the sum of CFAF 50,000 000⁶ set by the Committee. The Government also reported that the Inquiry Control Chamber of the Court of Appeal of the North West had ruled committing the accused person to stand trial before the High Court Mezam, and that psychosocial care was been provided to the victim by a social worker of the Ministry of Social Affairs.

21- With regard to general measures, the Government mentioned the existence of legal frameworks for child protection and access to services to respond to all forms of violence and care for survivors. In addition, it highlighted the initial and further training of Judges, Prosecutors and members of the Police and the Gendarmerie on Human Rights and children's rights.

22- Overall, the ACERWC deemed that the decision had only been partially implemented. It recommended that the State should provide a schedule for the implementation of all recommendations, especially the

³ In the context of Communication No. 2764/2016 of 28 October 2014, **Achille Benoit ZOGO ANDELA** vs. the State of Cameroon.

⁴ Communication No. 006/com/002/2015 of 16 November 2015, the Institute of Human Rights and Development in Africa and Finders Group Initiative on behalf of TFA (a minor) vs. The Government of the Republic of Cameroon.

⁵ About 763.35 Euros.

⁶ About 76 335.87 Euros.

payment of the compensation to **TFA** and the enactment of a law to eradicate sexual violence.

23- The Government was requested to report on the status of the implementation of the decision bi-annually and the ACERWC informed that its country rapporteur for Cameroon will work closely with both parties in monitoring the implementation of the case.

SECTION 2: COOPERATION IN NON-CONTENTIOUS MATTERS

24- With regard to non-contentious activity, Cameroon's cooperation with international and regional Human Rights promotion and protection mechanisms (Human Rights Bodies) was marked by its participation in the sessions and meetings of some Human Rights Bodies, contribution to the preparation of thematic reports of some UN mandate holders, submission of periodic reports to treaty bodies and strengthening of Cameroon's presence within Human Rights Bodies.

§1: Cameroon's Participation in the Sessions of some Human Rights Bodies

25- Despite impediments to human movement due to the Covid-19 pandemic, Cameroon participated in the working sessions of several Human Rights bodies or structures dealing with Human Rights-related issues, such as the ACHPR and the African Union's Specialised Technical Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs respectively. The subject matter of the sessions of the UN Human Rights Council and those of the African Union Peace and Security Council are worth mentioning.

A: Participation in the Working Sessions of the UN Human Rights Council

26- Through its Ambassador, Permanent Representative to the United Nations, the World Trade Organisation and to other international organisations in Geneva, Cameroon participated in the 46th, 47th and 48th sessions of the United Nations Human Rights Council, which were held through video conference, from 22 February to 24 March, from 21 June to 13 July, and from 13 September to 8 October 2021 respectively.

27- During the high-level segment which marked the first activity on the agenda of the 46th session, during which 130 dignitaries took the floor, the Minister of External Relations presented efforts made by Cameroon to promote and protect Human Rights in an unstable health, economic and security backdrop.

28- As part of the general debate, Cameroon exercised its right of instant response following statements made by Portugal (on behalf of the European Union), Austria, the United Kingdom and the NGO "East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project" regarding the Human Rights situation in the country. Cameroon also participated in various meetings on specific issues⁷ on the one hand, and had meetings with some Working Groups, Special Rapporteurs⁸, Independent Experts⁹ and Inquiry Commissions¹⁰ on the other. By virtue of its mandate as coordinator of the African Group of the Human Rights Council, Cameroon conducted several activities, including: co-chairing 2 side events on certain subject matters¹¹, presenting 16 statements on behalf of the Group, conducting certain negotiations and managing the presentation and adoption process of 4 draft resolutions¹².

⁷ Such as death penalty, the Human Rights situation in some countries, the rights of the child, racial discrimination, etc.

⁸ Special Rapporteur on the right to food; Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief; Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography; Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities; Special Rapporteur on the situation of Human Rights defenders; Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and the environment; Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of Human Rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism; Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

⁹ Independent Expert on the enjoyment of Human Rights by persons with albinism; Independent Expert on the effects of foreign debt and other related international financial obligations of States on the full enjoyment of all Human Rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights.

¹⁰ Commission of Inquiry on Burundi.

¹¹ On the international day of remembrance of the victims of slavery and the transatlantic slave trade on the one hand, and on the negative impact of the non-repatriation of funds of illicit origin to the countries of origin; on the enjoyment of Human Rights and the importance of improving international cooperation on the other hand.

¹² On the negative impact of the non-repatriation of funds of illicit origin to the countries of origin; on the enjoyment of Human Rights and the importance of improving international cooperation; on the mandate of the independent expert on the enjoyment of Human Rights by persons with albinism; on technical assistance and capacity-building in the field of Human Rights in Mali; and on technical assistance and capacity-building for South Sudan.

29- During the 2 other sessions of the Human Rights Council, Cameroon made statements regarding some items on the agenda¹³.

B: Participation at Sessions of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union

30- Cameroon participated in various meetings of the African Union (AU) Peace and Security Council, of which it is a member. Most of these meetings were held by video conference due to the Covid-19 health context.

31- During the 1048th meeting held on 15 November 2021 under the theme *"Countering Extremist Ideology and Radicalisation in Africa"*, the Cameroonian delegation highlighted that Cameroon was facing violent extremism in the North, North West and South West Regions, which had human, social and economic consequences and therefore called for more attention on violent extremism at the sub-regional, regional and international levels, as well as for stronger regional cooperation in terms of surveillance. It also called on States to show a high degree of responsibility by preventing terrorists from using their territory as rear bases.

§2: Contribution to the Preparation of Thematic Reports by some Mandate Holders

32- The State of Cameroon responded favourably to calls for contribution from several UN mandate holders for the preparation of their thematic reports. The following calls for contributions are illustrative: from the Special Rapporteur on the use of mercenaries as a means of violating Human Rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination, with a view to drafting the thematic report on *"the provision of military and security goods and services in cyberspace by cyber-mercenaries and other relevant actors and its impact on Human Rights"*; from the Special Rap-

¹³ For the 47th session, these topics were related to the right to privacy in the digital age; freedom of opinion and expression; freedom of peaceful assembly and freedom of association; the right to education; the right to physical and mental health; Human Rights in the administration of justice; the elimination of discrimination against women; protection against discrimination and violence related to sexual orientation and gender identity; awareness of the rights of persons with disabilities; Human Rights and indigenous peoples; rights of migrants and internally displaced persons; Human Rights and climate change; business and Human Rights; Human Rights and extreme poverty; trafficking in persons, especially women and children; prevention of genocide, etc. and for the 48th session, they were related to water and sanitation; arbitrary detention; rights of indigenous peoples; older persons; mercenarism; racism; enforced disappearances; truth, justice and reparation; hazardous substances and waste.

porteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, for the preparation of the Thematic Report on *“Trafficking in persons for forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, or servitude in the area of agriculture”*; from the Working Group on the issue of Human Rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises, for the preparation of the Thematic Report on *“International Investment Agreements (IIAs) compatible with Human Rights”*.

33- The Government of Cameroon also submitted a communication in response to the call for contributions from the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) on national measures taken to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and any form of related intolerance.

34- In its various contributions, Cameroon highlighted political, strategic, normative, institutional and operational aspects concerning the various themes, the results of its actions, as well as challenges and constraints encountered.

§3: Submission of Periodic Reports to Treaty Bodies

35- After the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights examined **Cameroon’s 4th Periodic Report under the ICESCR** (report submitted on 16 November 2017), on 20 and 21 February 2019, it made its Concluding Observations on 8 March 2019 wherein it requested Cameroon to submit, no later than 8 March 2021, a Follow-up Report on specific aspects concerning discrimination against minorities, trade union rights and the right to food. The Government complied with this deadline. Cameroon’s 5th Periodic Report under this Covenant is expected by 31 March 2024.

36- Cameroon prepared its **6th Periodic Report under the CAT**, which had to be submitted at the end of the year. In accordance with the simplified reporting procedure accepted by Cameroon on 1 April 2014, the Committee adopted a list of issues on 2 December 2020¹⁴. The responses to the concerns contained therein formed the substance of the said Report. Overall, this document contains specific information on the implementation of Articles 1 to 16 of the Convention, information on other issues and information on measures and developments relating to the implementation of the

¹⁴ 30 in total.

Convention. It contains progress made at the strategic, normative, institutional and operational levels, and outlines challenges and constraints encountered, especially with regard to the implementation of certain reforms, the empowerment of women victims and other socially vulnerable persons, the implementation of the programme to enhance the prison map, the provision of care to children associated with armed groups, the establishment of a mechanism for the protection of witnesses and victims of acts of torture and the ratification of certain relevant legal instruments.

37- These 2 periodic reports were prepared following a participatory and inclusive approach, which involved public administrations, the Cameroon Human Rights Commission and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs).

§4: Strengthening Cameroon's presence in Human Rights Mechanisms

38- On 14 October 2021, Cameroon was re-elected for a second 3-year term as a member of the Human Rights Council during the 76th session of the United Nations General Assembly, with 179 out of 193 votes. The term runs from 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2024.

39- During the 29th session of States Parties to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, which took place on 24 June 2021, Mrs **Régine ESSEME**¹⁵ was elected member of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, for a term of 4 years, covering the period from 19 January 2022 to 19 January 2026.

40- On 11 October 2021, Mr **Damien Côte Georges AWOUMOU**, Minister Counsellor at the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Cameroon to the United Nations Office, the World Trade Organisation and other International Organisations in Geneva, Switzerland, was elected Chairperson of the 28th session of the Working Group on Situations¹⁶ of the United Nations Human Rights Council, for a one-year term renewable once.

¹⁵ Super scale Judicial and Legal Officer, Advocate General at the Procureur General's Chambers of the Supreme Court.

¹⁶ This Working Group is made up of 5 members appointed by each of the regional groups from among the Member States of the Human Rights Council for a period of one year, renewable once. It holds at least two sessions per year to examine the communications transmitted to it by the Working Group on Communications as well as the situations referred to the Council under the complaint procedure. It submits a report to the Council on gross violations of Human Rights and fundamental freedoms and makes recommendations on measures to be taken (see www.ohchr.org).

41- Furthermore, in August 2021, Cameroon¹⁷ assumed the presidency of the African Union Peace and Security Council¹⁸.

42- The presence of Cameroonians in these Human Rights Bodies illustrates the importance that the Government accords to Human Rights issues and contributed to strengthening the country's influence and leadership at the international level.

¹⁷ Through the Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Cameroon to the African Union.

¹⁸ In accordance with article 8 paragraph 6 of the Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the African Union Peace and Security Council, the chairmanship of the Council shall rotate among its members, in the English alphabetical order of their names, for a period of one month. It is worth recalling that Cameroon was elected a member of this body during the 34th session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government held in Addis Ababa in February 2020, for a two-year term from 2020 to 2022.

PART ONE

CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS

INTRODUCTION TO PART ONE

43- The guarantee of the enjoyment of civil and political rights was illustrated by Government's actions which focused on its obligation to preserve the physical and moral integrity of human beings and their liberty, allowing access to impartial justice, to securing information and the use of information and communication technologies and their contribution to the development of their city.

44- Despite the persistence of the violation of rights, some of which were at times serious, the right to physical and moral integrity, as well as the right to liberty were protected. This was done in particular by strengthening the capacity of authorities in charge of applying the law, fighting the use of persons for commercial purposes, making the national mechanism for the prevention of torture operational and raising awareness among road users. Sanctions were imposed on persons guilty of the violation of physical and moral integrity and violation of liberty.

45- The right to fair trial was guaranteed through the reaffirmation of the independence of the Judiciary, the continued development of judicial infrastructure and the observance of ethics.

46- In addition, to ensure the protection of consumers of electronic communication services, the dissemination of malicious content via the Internet was censured and punished. Moreover, the implementation of regulatory mechanisms was accompanied by sanctions against media stakeholders who contravened laws.

47- The effective establishment of regional councils reflected the affirmation of the right of all to participate in the management of public affairs.

48- These actions are presented in this part of the Report, which is structured as follows:

- Right to Physical and Moral Integrity and Right to Liberty (Chapter 1);
- Right to Fair Trial (Chapter 2);
- Freedom of Expression and Communication (Chapter 3);
- Right to participate in the Management of Public Affairs (Chapter 4)

CHAPTER

1

RIGHT TO PHYSICAL AND MORAL INTEGRITY AND RIGHT TO LIBERTY

49- Safeguarding the physical and moral integrity of human beings, as well as their liberty, was a cardinal activity of the Government in 2021. Despite a socio-political context which was conducive to the violation of various fundamental rights, the State was committed to fulfilling its dual obligation to prevent and punish possible violations thereof.

SECTION 1: VIOLATION OF VARIOUS RIGHTS

50- Cases of violation of the right to physical integrity and the right to liberty were recorded.

§1: Violation of the Right to Physical Integrity

51- The collapse of buildings and traffic accidents caused physical injury. Cases of violations were recorded.

A: The Collapse of Buildings

52- On 30 June 2021, a six-storey building under construction, collapsed in the Bonapriso neighbourhood in Douala, causing the death of one person. On 14 July 2021, in Akwa, Douala, the scaffolding of a five-storey building under construction collapsed, leading to the death of one person and causing injury to 27 others. In the night of 11 to 12 August 2021, a couple was buried under the rubble of a building that collapsed at the Pk 13 neighbourhood in Douala. On 22 August 2021, 3 people (a woman and her 2 children) were killed as a result of the collapse of a two-storey building at Camp Yabassi in Douala.

53- According to specialists from the Ministry of Public Works, these incidents were due to non-compliance with urban planning legislation and incivility of the population.

B: Road Accidents

54- Some 6,810 cases of traffic accidents were recorded in 2021 by the General Delegation for National Security (DGSN). These figures, which are in sharp decline compared to those recorded in 2020, are presented as follows:

Table 1: Road Accidents by type recorded by the DGSN

Types of road accident	Number of cases recorded in 2020	Number of cases recorded in 2021
Accidents leading to material damage	5,144	5,198
Accidents leading to bodily injury	1,652	1,219
Accidents leading to deaths	487	393
TOTAL	7,303	6,810

Source: DGSN

55- These different types of accidents in 2021 caused 523 deaths and 1,463 injuries compared to 594 fatalities and 3043 injuries in 2020.

56- The National Gendarmerie recorded 2,107 road accidents, compared to 2,275 in 2020. They are presented in the table below:

Table 2: Road Accidents recorded by the National Gendarmerie

Types of road accident	Number of cases recorded in 2020	Number of cases recorded in 2021
Accidents leading to material damage	670	644
Accidents leading to bodily injury	981	838
Accidents leading to deaths	624	625
TOTAL	2,275	2,107

Source: SED

C: Statistics on Violent Crime

57- In 2021, the DGSN recorded 2,699 violent crimes, most of which were investigated, leading to the prosecution of accused persons before competent courts. Among the various offences, are those recorded in the table below:

Table 3: Investigations conducted by the DGSN

Nature of the offence	Number of cases
Capital murder	502
Murder	317
Rape	130
kidnapping and false arrest	806
Aggravated theft	944
TOTAL	2,699

Source: DGSN

58- Proceedings before the courts are presented in the table below:

Table 4: Proceedings before Courts

Offences	Number of investigation reports received	Number of proceedings initiated		Number of persons convicted	Number of persons acquitted/discharged	Number of victims				Number of victims compensated	Perpetrators of the offence		
		At preliminary inquiry	Before trial courts			M ¹⁹	W	B	G ²⁰		Children	Number of Law Enforcement personnel (specify the duty of the offender: Judicial/Legal Officer, Police and Gendarmerie Officers, Penitentiary Administration Personnel, Auxiliary of Justice)	Number of persons with authority over the victim (family relation, subordination relationship)
Capital Murder	362	243	219	87	32	165	49	12	05	40	00	05	
Murder	428	271	237	97	41	206	40	19	01	26	00	15	
Unintentional killing	1,041	163	937	457	56	661	217	93	35	212	00	39	
Assault occasioning death	346	139	120	96	40	115	28	06	01	19	02	04	
Assault occasioning grievous harm	146	25	41	13	09	41	11	03	01	08	00	00	
Torture	07	08	06	00	00	08	01	00	01	14	00	00	
Grievous harm	147	53	56	50	02	59	15	03	00	05	02	03	
Simple harm	1,053	29	676	442	136	342	249	16	07	169	03	18	
Slight harm	2,011	58	1,762	935	330	848	481	41	46	352	00	16	
Rape	336	77	219	168	20	12	86	05	133	14	00	07	
False arrest	97	39	52	34	18	57	08	15	13	08	04	01	
Forced Labour	01	00	01	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	
Trafficking of persons	14	02	06	12	00	05	02	07	08	00	00	01	

¹⁹ M: Men; W: Women; C: Children.

²⁰ B: Boy; G: Girl.

MINJUSTICE

Report of the Ministry of Justice on
Human Rights in Cameroon in 2021

Offences	Number of investigation reports received	Number of proceedings initiated		Number of persons convicted	Number of persons acquitted/discharged	Number of victims				Perpetrators of the offence		
		At preliminary inquiry	Before trial courts			Children				Number of Law Enforcement personnel (specify the duty of the offender: Judicial/Legal Officer, Police Officers, Gendarme Officers, Penitentiary Administration Personnel, Auxiliary of Justice)	Number of persons with authority over the victim (family relation, subordination relationship)	
						M	W	Boys	F1:			
smuggling of persons	21	19	16	13	03	01	01	10	07	02	00	04
Kidnapping of child	285	71	105	45	26	01	02	43	98	08	00	05
Kidnapping with use of fraud or violence	69	40	40	40	09	04	04	10	35	01	01	02
Indecency to child under sixteen	853	514	434	334	41	09	48	32	594	95	06	24
Indecency to child under 16-21	240	205	272	199	27	12	91	25	251	116	00	00

§2: Violation of the Right to Liberty

59- Deprivation of Liberty by means of coercion, especially through the use of weapons, resurfaced in the northern part of the country, with the phenomenon of highway robbery, and the persistence of attacks by armed gangs, particularly the *Boko Haram* group. Violation of the right to freedom of movement was also committed by armed gangs in the crisis-stricken Regions of the North West and South West.

60- At the national level, with the exception of the North West Region, there were 71 proceedings at the level of preliminary inquiry for the kidnapping of minors and 105 cases at the level of trial. Examining Magistrates and trial judges each heard 40 cases of kidnapping with fraud or violence. As regards Military Tribunals: 3 kidnapping cases were under preliminary inquiry at the Maroua Military Tribunal at the end of the year, while 8 cases of false arrest were before Garoua Military Tribunal and 13 cases of kidnapping and 82 cases of false arrest were under preliminary inquiry at the said Tribunal, while at the Buea Military Tribunal, one case was at the trial phase and 2 under preliminary inquiry. Before the Yaoundé Military Tribunal, 3 cases were at the trial phase while 4 were under preliminary inquiry. Before the Military Court in Bamenda, there were 31 cases, of which 30 were before the trial phase and 1 before the Examining Magistrate while in the Bafoussam Military Tribunal, 2 cases were under preliminary inquiry and 3 were on trial. At the Douala Military, 7 cases were at the trial phase while before the Ebolowa Military Tribunal, 4 cases were at the trial phase.

61- Kidnappings with or without demand for ransom were recorded in the crisis-affected Regions of the North West and South West, as illustrated by the following cases: on 22 May 2021, Rev Father **Christopher EBOKA**, Director of Communication of the Mamfe Diocese, was kidnapped by an armed gang and released 10 days later; on 18 June 2021, 6 Divisional Delegates²¹, all working in the Ndian Division, were kidnapped on the Mundemba-Ekondo-Titi road stretch in the South West Region. A large sum of money was demanded for their release, including CFAF 30,000, 000²² for the Delegate of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development. They were still in captivity by the end of 2021; in

²¹ In particular, those of the Ministries of Economy, Planning and Regional Development; Housing and Urban Development; Water and Energy; State Property, Surveys and Land Tenure; Small and Medium-sized Enterprises, Social Economy and Handicrafts.

²² About 45, 801. 53 Euros.

August 2021, Bishop **AGBORTOKO AGBOR** was abducted, and his captors demanded the sum of CFAF 20,000,000²³ for his release; On 15 September 2021, in the North West Region, about 15 Teachers and education officials who had been kidnapped a few days earlier were released after payment of a ransom of CFAF 500,000²⁴ for each of them; on 7 December 2021 at Bambalang, an armed gang also kidnapped Fon **YAKUM Kelvin**, Traditional Ruler of MbawYakum and President of the North West House of Chiefs.

SECTION 2: PREVENTING RISKS OF VIOLATION OF THE RIGHT TO PHYSICAL AND MORAL INTEGRITY AND RIGHT TO LIBERTY

62- Capacity-building was provided for authorities in charge of applying the law, and further efforts were made to preserve physical integrity and liberty.

§1: Capacity-building for Authorities in charge of applying the Law

63- Capacity-building efforts focused on initial training and in-service training.

A: Initial Training

64- As part of initial training, a course on Human Rights is taught to pupil Magistrates at the National School of Administration and Magistracy (ENAM). In addition to this course, every batch attends a three-day academic seminar on International Humanitarian Law and taking into account Human Rights in the administration of justice in the context of counter-terrorism. In the same vein, from 9 to 10 September 2021, pupil Administrators of the General Administration Section attended a training workshop on *“Challenges related to the protection of internally displaced persons and prospects for the implementation of the Kampala Convention”*, organised with the support of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

65- Moreover, modules on “Human Rights and Freedoms” and “Prohibition of Torture” were maintained in the training curricula for DGSN personnel, as well as the module on International Humanitarian Law in National Gen-

²³ About 30, 534.35 Euros.

²⁴ About 763.38 Euros.

darmerie training centres. Nearly 3,000 personnel of the Secretariat of State in charge of Defence (SED), 20% of whom are women attended these training courses.

B: In-service Training

66- On 26 August 2021 in Yaounde, the Ministry of Justice (MINJUSTICE) organised a capacity-building workshop for judicial and penitentiary personnel on Human Rights and measures of deprivation of liberty, during which participants were schooled on the rights of persons in detention, guarantees against deprivation of liberty, challenges encountered and envisaged solutions in a context of health and security crises. Some 14 judicial personnel and 6 prison personnel participated in the seminar. In the months of July, September and December 2021, other workshops on International Human Rights Law and International Humanitarian Law were organised in Yaounde, Buea, Maroua and Bafoussam by MINJUSTICE, with the support of the United Nations Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa as well as 4 workshops in October and November 2021 in the East Region on the protection of children in contact with the law in collaboration with UNICEF and 3 workshops on gender based violence in Buea, Bafoussam and Maroua in collaboration with UN Women. Nearly 110 civilian and military Judicial and Legal Officers participated in the workshops.

67- In addition, on 3 December 2021, the International School for Security Forces (EIFORCES) at Awae organised a training seminar on Human Rights and counter-terrorism. This training session concerned members of the Defence and Security Forces (DSF).

§2: Preventing possible Violations of the Right to Physical Integrity

68- Prevention was based on the improvement of road safety, the fight against the proliferation of firearms, operationalisation of the national mechanism for the prevention of torture and the fight against trafficking in persons.

A: Improving Road Safety

69- In an effort to reduce the number of road fatalities, the State implemented a series of measures including: building the capacity of road safety stakeholders, increasing the number of and rehabilitating road infrastructure, designing tools to prevent road accidents and organising road safety campaigns.

1) Capacity-building for Road Safety Stakeholders

70- As part of the support programme for the governance of national and regional infrastructure in Central Africa, financed by the European Union to the tune of CFAF 413,000,000²⁵ and by Cameroon's counterpart funds to the tune of CFAF 85,000,000²⁶, EIFORCES trained 400 personnel, including Forces of Law and Order (FLO) and civil society stakeholders, on the prevention of road accidents, control, repression and emergency aid. From 29 March to 1 April 2021, the same school trained 34 civil-military personnel in post-accident medical care and rescue.

71- In December 2021, the same institution organised a training of trainers session for 23 police and gendarmerie personnel. The training session focused on the global and African road safety environment, continental challenges for the decade of action for road safety 2021-2030, the design and analysis of road statistics and the peculiarities of rural areas.

2) Construction and Rehabilitation of Road Infrastructure

72- Ongoing projects on the construction of roads reached the following results in 2021: The completion of the first phase of the construction of the Yaounde-Nsimalen, Yaounde-Douala²⁷ and Kribi-Lolabe highway projects; construction of the Sangmelima-Ntam²⁸ stretch in the South Region, 321.5 km long; the Maroua-Bogo road, 35 km long; the first phase of the Yaounde-Douala highway, 60 km long; the Mintom-Lele stretch (67.5 km); and the rehabilitation of the Maroua-Mora road (61.43 km). Some roads were opened to traffic without formal reception; which include: the Kribi-Lolabe highway (36 km); the Lena-Tibati road stretch (167 km) and the Mengong-Sangmelima road (75 km).

73- The Rehabilitation²⁹ of the Kalong-Tonga road stretch (67 km long) on National highway No. 4 was officially received on 27 December 2021.

²⁵ About 500,000 Euros.

²⁶ About 129, 573.17 Euros.

²⁷ The technical acceptance of this stretch of road section by the Ministry of Public Works took place on 31 December 2021. The 60 km long road is made up of two 7.5 m wide carriageways, two 3m wide emergency lanes paved in bituminous concrete, a central reservation, among others.

²⁸ This is the Cameroonian section of the Sangmelima-Ouessou corridor, known as the regional integration road, which is meant to facilitate road circulation and trade between Cameroon and the Republic of Congo.

²⁹ The rehabilitation works included inter alia the replacement of 118 metal culverts with box culverts.

3) Designing Tools to Prevent Road Accidents

74- The Government launched the Intercity Transport Management and Monitoring Project, which is a tool based on artificial intelligence aimed at reducing the rate of human-induced road accidents on the Douala-Yaounde, Douala-Bafoussam and Yaounde-Bafoussam highways. During the pilot phase of the project which lasted two months, 400 vehicles³⁰ were equipped with a remote monitoring device, which enabled the identification of the main causes of accidents³¹, and to curb practices such as over speeding, driving while tired or under the influence of alcohol, vehicle overloading, driving without a driving licence, lack of road worthiness certificate and the use of mobile phones while driving. The Minister of Transport also instituted a vehicle safety inspection form, to be signed by managers of transport agencies, which certifies both the condition of the vehicle and the driver before travel. The Minister equally ordered the immediate respect of the minimum travel time on roads known to be accident-prone.

4) Organisation of Road Safety Campaigns

75- The Ministry of Transport organised the usual road safety campaign during the high mobility period which precedes the start of the school year³² and another special road safety campaign from 10 September 2021 to 28 February 2022. As part of the latter campaign, joint teams with sophisticated control equipment, including speed detection devices, chemical and electronic breathalysers, and digital applications for verifying the authenticity of transport documents (roadworthiness stickers, driving licences, vehicle registration documents, insurance, etc.), were deployed on roads across the country.

76- Permanent surveillance units and a central unit were set up to coordinate activities and centralise information, respectively. Toll-free numbers (620 22 45 29, 620 22 45 20, 620 21 27 41) were also provided in order to receive complaints from road users.

³⁰ 100 interurban road transport buses and 300 trucks transporting dangerous products.

³¹ 713,917 causes of accidents linked to speeding; 44,196 risks attributed to non-use of seatbelt; 6,693 risks attributed to fatigue; 130 risks attributed to distraction; and 22 risks linked to smoking.

³² From 7 June to 10 September 2021.

B: Fight against the Proliferation of Weapons

77- The Inter-ministerial Committee for the implementation of the Kinshasa Convention constantly held meetings, especially that of 18 May 2021, which aimed to present the SALIENT (The Saving Life Entity) project, a new United Nations funding mechanism dedicated to helping States combat the proliferation of illicit small arms and light weapons (SALW), and to assess the SALW context in Cameroon in order to identify areas where Government authorities, the United Nations and other stakeholders could collaborate towards the implementation of the project.

78- The inter-ministerial consultation platform in charge of developing the National System for the International Transfer of Arms (SYNTIA platform) met regularly. During its meeting of 16 December 2021, activities of the year were reviewed and the way forward for the year 2022 was examined. During this brainstorming session, the need to create a national authority in charge of arms control was agreed upon.

79- The Inter-ministerial Committee for the Implementation of Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) also held its meetings and organised training sessions, including the seminar on *Chemical Security Intervention Measures and Emergency Response Systems during Major Public Events*. The objective of the said seminar which was organised in Yaounde from 1 to 3 December 2021, in partnership with the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), was to support Cameroon in the preparation of the TotalEnergies AFCON 2021, and to build the capacity of participants on the management of a potential chemical attack. Representatives of public administrations participated in the seminar³³.

80- The Ministry of External Relations (MINREX), in partnership with the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), the Cameroon Youth and Students Forum for Peace and United Nations Trust Facilities Supporting Cooperation on Arms Regulation, organised, from 29 June to 1 July 2021 in Yaounde, a Sub-Regional Workshop dubbed "Data collection on SDGs 16.4.2 on Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) and the implementation of the International Tracing Instrument (ITI) on Small

³³ Ministries of Territorial Administration, Defence, Sports and Physical Education, the General Delegation for National Security, the Secretariat of State for Defence in charge of the National Gendarmerie, and the Organising Committee of the TotalEnergies African Cup of Nations 2021.

Arms and Light Weapons in Central Africa". At the end of the workshop, it was recommended to Member States and to the ECCAS Commission to set up, within a reasonable time frame, a coordinating body to ensure that activities of States to combat SALW are concurrently undertaken, and to mark and trace SALW in accordance with commitments made in the Kinshasa Convention and other relevant international instruments.

C: Effective Implementation of the National Mechanism for the Prevention of Torture

81- On 30 April 2021, the Sub-Committee for the Prevention of Torture, composed of four commissioners including a Doctor, was set up within the CHRC. Between July and September 2021, the CHRC visited 16 judicial police units, 9 prisons and a psychiatric hospital in the North, Far North, West, Littoral, South West and South Regions, as well as the Jamot Hospital in the Centre Region³⁴. As a result of these visits cases of several persons illegally deprived of their liberty were reported leading to their release.

D: Fight against Trafficking in and Smuggling of Persons

82- The Government carried out activities to curb the phenomenon of trafficking in and smuggling of persons. As part of the implementation of a Project dubbed *Situational Assessment of trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants in Cameroon*, the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), in collaboration with the Ministry of Social Affairs (MINAS) and the Ministry of Women's Empowerment and the Family (MINPROFF), organised 3 awareness-raising campaigns, from 10 to 26 December 2021, respectively in Bertoua, Garoua Boulai and Yaounde on trafficking in and smuggling of persons. These campaigns made it possible to raise the awareness of nearly 10,000 persons comprising school children, prostitutes, traders, commercial motorbike riders, footballers, travel agency promoters, leaders of women's associations as well as administrative, religious and traditional authorities.

³⁴ Visits were made to following institutions: Centre Region, 17 August 2021 (Jamot Hospital, to check conditions under which care is provided to mentally ill persons); North Region, 27 July 2021 (Garoua Central Prison, Garoua Central Police Station and Gendarmerie Brigade); West Region, 28 July 2021 (Bafoussam Central Prison); South Region, 25 August 2021 (Kribi Main Prison, Kribi Central Police Station and Kribi Gendarmerie Brigade); South West Region, 30 July 2021 and 3 August 2021 (Buea Central Police Station, Buea 1st and 2nd District Security Police Stations, Buea Gendarmerie Brigade, Tiko Public Security Police Station and Gendarmerie Brigade, Mutengene Public Security Police Station and Gendarmerie Brigade, Mutengene BIR Detention Centre).

83- In addition, efforts for the operationalisation of the toll-free number (1503), allocated to MINAS for reporting cases of trafficking and smuggling of persons, were completed, while its official launching was scheduled for January 2022.

84- Furthermore, a module on organised crime, with specific chapters on trafficking in and smuggling of persons was included in the new training programmes of Judicial Police Officers (JPO) of the Gendarmerie.

85- Within the framework of the above-mentioned project on trafficking in and smuggling of persons, on 7 April 2021, the National Assessment Situational Study Report on Human Trafficking and Smuggling in Cameroon was published. The study identified the most common forms of trafficking in persons, routes used by traffickers, examined the legal framework and prosecution of trafficking and smuggling in persons offences, among others. It also proposed recommendations to better combat trafficking in and smuggling of persons. A plan of action is appended to the study.

§3: Preventing Violations of the Right to Liberty

86- Particular attention was paid to curbing illegal detentions. In this regard, competent authorities continued to monitor remand in police and prison custody throughout the year in order to put an end to irregularities

SECTION 3: SANCTIONING VIOLATIONS

87- There were sanctions for vertical and horizontal violations.

§1: Sanctions for Vertical Violations

88- Law enforcement personnel found guilty of violating the rights to physical and moral integrity were sanctioned administratively and by the courts. The immediate release of persons illegally deprived of their liberty was obtained through the habeas corpus procedure. In addition, some victims of unlawful detention applied to the Commission for Compensation of Illegal Detention.

A: Administrative Sanctions

89- In 2021, the Inspectorate General in charge of the Special Division of Control of Services of the DGSN conducted 175 investigations into

Human Rights violations allegedly perpetrated by Police Officers. These figures are in sharp increase compared to those of 2020 are summarised in the table below:

Table 5: Inventory of Offences committed by Police Officers

OFFENCES	NUMBER OF INVESTIGATIONS CONDUCTED	
	In 2020	In 2021
Assault and battery	14	90
Rape and indecency	04	07
False arrest	02	19
Desertion of incapable	02	34
Unlawful detention	04	13
Torture	00	12
TOTAL	26	175

Source: DGSN

90- A total of 14 disciplinary sanctions were imposed on Police Officers in 2021 for offences relating to Human Rights violations, compared to the 9 cases of disciplinary sanctions recorded in 2020 for the same reasons. There were 2 dismissals, 5 reprimands, 1 deferment in increment, 1 striking off the promotion list, 2 cases of reduction in incremental position and 3 cases of reduction in grade.

91- No sanctions were imposed on Penitentiary Administration personnel, while 57 administrative and 48 judicial proceedings were instituted against Gendarmes.

B: Prosecution and Sanctions by the Courts

92- On 11 February 2021, in the locality of Ndu, in the North West Region, 2 Gendarmes, 2 Soldiers and 4 Police Officers were detained at the Gendarmerie Brigade of Ndu and disciplinary, administrative and judicial investigations were opened against them, for striking with a machete, **Jean FAI FINGONG**, who was suspected of being a criminal and a terrorist relay. The Ministry of Defence (MINDEF) found that such an act was in breach of the protection of Human Rights. The proceedings were ongoing.

93- During the night of 15 to 16 September 2021, **TCHOUMI Cyrille**, suspected of theft, was subjected to inhuman treatment by 5 Police Officers on duty at the 18th district Public Security Police Station Yaounde. The event was filmed and posted on social media. The alleged perpetrators were arrested and brought before the State Counsel's Chambers of the Yaounde-Centre *Administratif* Court of First Instance on 24 September 2021, and were prosecuted before the said Court for torture and ill-treatment. On 6 December 2021, they were sentenced to prison terms as follows: **N.F.J.M.** to one month in prison, **K.D** to two months in prison, **A.A.A** to three months in prison, and **N.K.M** and **K.P** to one month in prison. They were also sentenced to pay fines ranging from CFAF 25,000³⁵ to CFAF 45,000³⁶.

C: Habeas Corpus Litigation

94- There were applications for immediate release based on irregularities in detention, particularly at the stage of preliminary inquiry. In Ruling No. 7 of 16 July 2021 issued by the President of the Diamare High Court, in the case of **NDJIDDA Sali**, it was held that: *whereas upon verification of the records of proceedings, the last action by the Examining Magistrate is the extension of the duration of the remand warrant, which came after the case file was forwarded to the State Counsel for his final submissions; That as the period of validity of the remand warrant [...] (in 2016) extended on 27 April 2017 had long expired; That his detention having become illegal, he must be released immediately...*

95- Also, in Rulings No. 3/HC/TGI/2021 of 16 September 2021 and No. 4/HC/TGI/2021 of 16 September 2021, the President of the Haut Nkam High Court, he wrote as follows in the second case: *That in the present case, a remand warrant was issued against the applicant on 15 April 2020 for a period of 6 months; That at the end of this period, i.e. on 15 October 2020, the Examining Magistrate had to issue an extension order, which he failed to do; That at that time, in addition to non-compliance with this legal requirement, detention in this case had become illegal...*

³⁵ About 38.17 Euros.

³⁶ About 45.70 Euros.

96- In Ruling No. 2/HC/TGI/2021 of 22 June 2021, the same court also concluded that failure to enlist, and the continued detention, 3 months after its dismissal and notification of the report of last appearance, rendered the detention of **ALIYOU** illegal

97- Furthermore, in Ruling No. 8 of 16 July 2021, following the case of **DJIDDA Oumar**, the same court ordered the immediate release of the applicant for lack of a valid detention document, notably as the remand warrant did not bear his name.

98- As for the President of the Mfoundi High Court, in Ruling No. 168/HC of 10 November 2021, he ordered the release of **ETOGO MBASSI Etienne Vicky** for failure to mention the sentence of loss of liberty in Judgement No. 25/CRIM/TCS, as well as in the imprisonment warrants of the Special Criminal Court (SCC). The same court ordered the release of **TEPGA Eric** alias **MAKONG Antoine** by Ruling No. 115/RG/HC/2021 of 26 August 2021 for absence of a remand warrant.

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

99- The Commission received 14 applications and conducted two hearings. The first hearing took place on 27 October 2021 with 7 cases entered on the cause list. Out of which decisions were delivered in 5 cases and 2 dismissed from the cause list. At the 2nd hearing held on 29 December 2021, 6 decisions were delivered for the 6 cases on the cause list. Thus, by 31 December 2021, the Commission had rendered 11 decisions. The number increased compared to the 2 decisions rendered in 2020.

§2: Sanctions for Horizontal Violations

100- Courts punished violations of the right to physical integrity and liberty committed by persons who are not authorities in charge of applying the law. Public transport promoters were also sanctioned as part of the fight against traffic accidents.

A: Proceedings before Courts

101- On 7 September 2021, the Buea Military Tribunal, by Judgment No. 291/2021, found **K. P. T., R. L. M., Y. L.** and **E. K. E.** guilty of acts of terrorism, hostility against the fatherland, insurrection, secession, capital murder and others, and sentenced them to death by firing squad. They were the perpetrators of the 24 October 2020 massacre at the Mother Francisca International Academy in Kumba, where 7 students died.

102- On 21 May 2021, the High Court of the Ntem Valley rendered a decision in which it found **M.A.** guilty of trafficking in persons and sentenced him to 5 years imprisonment and to a fine of CFAF 100,000³⁷; while **O.M.C.N.** and **O.M.M.** were each sentenced to 20 months imprisonment for the same acts. In addition, in a judgement of 29 July 2021, the Diamare High Court sentenced **K.B.** to 17 months in prison for false arrest. The Benoue High Court found **L.H.W.** guilty as charged and sentenced him to 10 years in prison and to a fine of CFAF 100,000 for kidnapping with fraud and sentenced others as co-offenders. Mention can also be made of the prosecution of Private First Class **L.B.D.** before the Military Tribunal of Ngaoundere for assault occasioning death and torture of **J.P.**, committed on 18 May 2021 at the Koumtchoum checkpoint, in the Adamawa Region; proceedings before the Bertoua Lower Courts against **M.N.R.**, **M.M.J.**, and **S.J.P.** for torture and others; and proceedings before the courts in Yokadouma against **L.W.** for the same acts.

B: Sanctions against Public Transport Companies

103- In view of the persistence of road accidents, on 10 August 2021, in a special communique, the Minister of Transport announced sanctions against public transport companies and their personnel responsible for the said accidents, and outlined the new guideline of the national road safety strategy. In line with this, both transport companies and their drivers, who were responsible for these accidents were temporarily suspended. These included “*Solidarité plus Voyages*” and “*Avenir de la Kadey*”. Moreover, after the suspension period, the drivers enrolled for refresher driving lessons in authorised driving schools.

³⁷ About 152.67 Euros.

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104- Activities relating to the protection of physical and moral integrity and right to liberty sufficiently illustrated the State's commitment to protect humankind. However, there were still challenges regarding sanctions against authorities in charge of applying the law, which seemed to be unsatisfactory in view of the gravity of some of the violations recorded

CHAPTER

2

RIGHT TO FAIR TRIAL

105- Programmes to improve court activities, governance and institutional support to the Justice sub-sector continued to be implemented. The right to fair trial, which is at the centre of these programmes, was exercised through its institutional and procedural guarantees.

SECTION 1: INSTITUTIONAL GUARANTEES OF FAIR TRIAL

106- Institutional guarantees relating to equal access to justice, a competent, impartial and independent court were consolidated.

§1: Consolidating Guarantees relating to Equal Access to Justice

107- To facilitate equal intellectual, economic and geographical access to justice, the dissemination of the content of the law was intensified, legal aid continued to be allocated and court infrastructure was further developed.

A: Intensifying the Dissemination of the Content of the Law

108- Legal instruments and court decisions were published. Moreover, legal documentation was disseminated.

1) Publication of Legal Instruments

109- Besides the Official Gazette, legal instruments were published for free downloading on the websites of the Presidency of the Republic (www.prc.cm), the National Assembly (www.assnat.cm), the Prime Minister's Office (www.spm.gov.cm), Ministries, including the Ministry of Justice (www.minjustice.gov.cm), and other Administrations and Public Entities. Legal information was also available on websites belonging to private entities (www.barreaucameroun.org, www.droitcameroun.info, www.tribunejustice.com...).

110- In the same vein, law reviews, such as *Juridis-Périodique* and the media including Cameroon Tribune newspaper published laws adopted by Parliament, Presidential Decrees, Decrees by the Head of Government and Ministerial Orders, among others.

111- These instruments were published in the 2 official languages which are English and French. To reflect the importance of translation of legal documents, a ceremony was organised at MINJUSTICE on 30 September 2021, on the occasion of the International Translation Day, celebrated under the theme “*United in Translation*”. The ceremony was attended by the Representative of the Chairperson of the National Commission for the Promotion of Bilingualism and Multiculturalism (NCPBM) as well as Translators from the Supreme Court, the Special Criminal Court (SCC) and the Centre Court of Appeal

2) Publication of Court Judgments

112- Five volumes of the “*Recueil des arrêts du Tribunal Criminel Spécial*” (Collection of Judgments of the Special Criminal Court (SCC)), were being disseminated. In addition, 6 volumes of the “*Recueil des arrêts de la Section spécialisée de la Cour Suprême*” (Collection of decisions of the Specialised Division of the Supreme Court), were produced and disseminated. Similarly, in *Justitia* magazine No.16 of March 2021 produced by MINJUSTICE, provisions of several judgments rendered by the SCC were published.

113- The choice of cases presented in these first ever compilations was guided by the aim of presenting cases more likely to facilitate understanding of substantial and procedural aspects of the offence of misappropriation of public funds and related offences.

3) Publication and Dissemination of Legal Documents

114- In addition to those already available online, in bookshops and libraries, such as the libraries of the Supreme Court and MINJUSTICE, books³⁸ and legal reviews were published by academics and practitioners.

³⁸ For example the following books: *L’exception en droit* (Objections in Law); *La jurisprudence de la cour de justice de la CEMAC* (Case Law of the CEMAC Court of Justice); *La protection du crédit bancaire en droit africain des affaires* (Protecting bank loan in African Business Law); *La justice, ses métiers, ses procédures* (The Judiciary, its Professions and Procedures); *Pratique des saisies immobilières en droit OHADA* (Practice of attachment in OHADA Law); *Le nouveau droit de l’arbitrage et de la médiation* (New Law of Arbitration and Mediation); *L’effectivité du droit* (Effectivity of Law); *La responsabilité des agents de l’administration en droit camerounais* (The Responsibility of State Employees in Cameroonian Law); *La responsabilité des agents publics au Cameroun* (The Responsibility of State Employees in Cameroon); *La procédure pénale au Cameroun* (Criminal Procedure in Cameroon); *Le droit du travail au Cameroun* (Right to Work in Cameroon), analyse critique (Critical Analysis); *Justice militaire et lutte contre le terrorisme au Cameroun* (Military Justice and the fight against terrorism in Cameroon); *La responsabilité fiscale du notaire dans les pays membres du traité OHADA* (Fiscal responsibility of Notaries in OHADA member States); *Le droit camerounais du travail* (Cameroon Labour Law), relations individuelles du travail (Labour Individual Relationships).

115- Moreover, MINJUSTICE published 2 editions of the *Justitia* magazine (No. 16 and 17) which covered diverse subjects from judicial institutions to international judicial cooperation, international criminal justice, OHADA Community Law, Human Rights as well as rights of specific groups including women and children, the Law of succession and sports Law. Among the reviews published, was the *Juridis-Périodique*³⁹ with 4 volumes in 2021.

B: Granting of Legal Aid

116- Besides cases where legal aid is provided for by law, it was granted partially or fully by Legal Aid Commissions. These commissions received requests from persons who did not have sufficient resources to assert their rights before the courts. Beneficiaries of this aid were exempted from paying an advance on costs of procedures and documents, which costs were borne by the State of Cameroon.

117- As illustrated in the table below, Legal Aid Commissions granted 100 applications for legal aid out of 182 received, representing 54.94%. From 2017 to 2020, these commissions granted 97, 137, 126 and 163 legal aid applications, recording a percentage of 42.17%, 53.51%, 48.64% and 86.7%. Examples of legal aid granted include Decision No. 2 of 29 August 2021, wherein the Legal Aid Commission of the Edea Court of First Instance (CFI) granted legal aid to **N.W.G.** The Legal Aid Commission of the Wouri High Court (HC) did same pursuant to Decision No. 26/CAJ/TGI/W/DLA and Decision No. 27/CAJ/TGI/W/DLA of 4 May 2021, Decision No. 43/CAJ/TGI/W/DLA, Decision No. 45/CAJ/TGI/W/DLA and Decision No. 46/CAJ/TGI/W/DLA of 3 August 2021 in the cases concerning **K.G.**, **J.M.M.**, **T.M.O.A** and **B.E.P.**

³⁹ Some others include, *Le Kilimandjaro*, *la Revue africaine de droit et de l'économie du sport*, *la Revue camerounaise de droit et de science politique*, *la Revue camerounaise du droit des affaires*, *Actualité Trimestrielle de Droit des Affaires* and *Janus*.

Table 1: Legal Aid granted in 2021

Courts	Number of applications for legal aid	Number of applications for legal aid rejected	Number of applications for legal aid granted		Number of beneficiaries		
			Decision of full grant	Decision of partial grant	Number of men	Number of women	Others (detainees, refugees, internally displaced persons, indigenous populations (Pygmies, Mbororos) + persons with disabilities)
CFI	85	15	15	0	11	2	...
HC	152	23	62	8	47	11	...
CA	45	17	12	2	10	4	...
AC	2	0	1	0	...	...	...

Source: MINJUSTICE

Key

CFI: Court of First Instance

HC: High Court

CA: Court of Appeal

AC: Administrative Court

118- Bringing together some members of the Legal Aid Commissions remained a challenge. Also, the said commissions did not exist in some courts such as customary courts and administrative courts.

C: Development of Judicial Infrastructure

119- In addition to constructing and rehabilitating judicial infrastructure, feasibility studies in view of extending the judicial map were carried out.

1) Feasibility Studies in view of extending the Judicial Map

120- MINJUSTICE carried out feasibility studies in view of extending the judicial map⁴⁰, which, once completed, shall be aligned with the administrative map. In this vein, in November 2021, a team from the Division for

⁴⁰ Cameroon has a Constitutional Council, a Supreme Court, a Special Criminal Court, 10 Administrative Courts, 10 Military Courts, 10 Courts of Appeal, 12 High Courts, 47 Courts of First Instance and High Courts, 29 Courts of First Instance and 447 Customary Courts.

Research and Planning (DEP) visited some localities within the jurisdiction of the Centre, West and Littoral Courts of Appeal to identify sites for the construction of Courts of First Instance which shall be set up. These localities were Pouma, Tonga, Obala and Mbandjock. The localities were retained based on several criteria, namely the regular organisation of assizes, high population density, significant economic activity and distances to courts.

121- From 2015 to 2020, the DEP had already identified sites where new courts could be constructed in the localities of Soa, Sa'a, Ngaoundal, Bel-el, Lomie, Messamena, Mbang, Betare-Oya, Bafut, Nwa, Menchum-Valley, Njinikom, Lolodorf, Mvangane, Eyumodjock, Mbonge and Ekondo-Titi.

2) Construction and Rehabilitation of Judicial Infrastructure

122- The rate of execution of the construction of the Modern Complexes for Judicial Services in Yaounde and Douala was 40.67 % and 48.23% respectively in 2021 compared to 32.4% and 34.82% respectively in 2020.

123- Moreover, cracks observed on the main building of MINJUSTICE were repaired, the shell structures of the Edea and Tombel Courthouses were completed and received while construction of the Tombel Courthouse continued. In addition, the architectural study of the Far North Court of Appeal was being finalised, the main court room of the South Court of Appeal was rehabilitated and works to extend the Sangmelima Courthouse and to construct the Ngambe Courthouse continued.

124- Government efforts towards increasing judicial infrastructure were sometimes hindered. On 3 May 2021, the site hosting the Foubot CFI was consumed by arson. Besides the building, the fire outbreak led to the loss of files and office equipment. To ensure continuous provision of services in the justice sector, Government provided temporal premises for the personnel of the said court. The reconstitution of destroyed documents was ongoing.

125- This terrible incident was a reminder of the challenges faced in securing judicial infrastructure⁴¹.

⁴¹ Previously, in the night of 3 to 4 March 2012, the Foubot CFI had suffered a fire incident which partially consumed the structure. Similarly, another arson had consumed the Muyuka Courthouse

§2: Reaffirmation of Guarantees relating to a Competent, Impartial and Independent Court

126- In general, the requirements relating to the right to a competent and an impartial court were met and measures were adopted to consolidate the right to an independent court.

A: Ensuring Competent Courts

127- Depending on the matter, Judges of lower courts either assumed or declined their jurisdiction *ratione loci* and *ratione materiae*. Court of Appeal quashed decisions rendered in violation of the rules of jurisdiction.

128- For example, following Judgement No. 145/COR of 23 September and Judgement No. 186/COR of 25 November 2021 in the case, The People and **K.M** vs. **D.J.R**, as well as The People and **N.D** vs. **F.D.D.C**, the Bafoussam CFI declined its *ratione materiae* jurisdiction to hear the case on indecency in the presence of a minor aged 16.

129- In the same way, by Judgement No. 007/CRIM/TCS of 31 March 2021 in the case, The People and the State of Cameroon vs. K.T.S.B and 5 others, the SCC rejected the objection on want of jurisdiction by the defence Counsel based on the civil nature of the funds at stake, on the privity of contracts, the fungible nature of money, indivisibility of the discontinuance of proceedings and the general legal principle whereby “the accessory follows the principal”.

B: Ensuring Impartial Courts

130- Any party who had doubts regarding the impartiality of Judges was at liberty to request their recusal. Some 44 applications for recusal of Judges addressed to Presidents of Courts of Appeal were recorded (compared to 33 in 2018, 37 in 2019 and 20 in 2020).

131- None of these applications was granted, 9 of them were rejected and 35 others were pending ruling.

132- No civil action for damages against a Magistrate was recorded.

on 13 June 2018.

C: Consolidating the Independence of the Judiciary

133- Besides ensuring the independence of Judges, the number of personnel in the justice sector was increased and a budget was allocated to the Judiciary.

1) Ensuring the Independence of Judges

134- During the Annual Meeting of Heads of Courts of Appeal and Regional Delegates of Penitentiary Administration organised on 18 and 19 October 2021 by MINJUSTICE, independence of Judges was discussed. The objective was to review the normative and institutional frameworks which underpin the said independence and examine its implementation vis-a-vis the Executive Power, the Legal Department and diverse influences (financial pressures, tribal and religious lobbies as well as public opinion ...).

135- Also discussed at the meeting were threats to the independence of judges including the tendency for some Judges to act arbitrarily, the intrusion of the Legal Department into the activities of the Bench, and vexatious applications for recusal of Judges, civil actions for damages against Magistrates or transfer to another court as well as threats to the physical and psychological integrity of Judges. After deliberations, a dual need was identified; to ensure the respect of the independence of Judges by all and for Presidents of Courts of Appeal and Administrative Courts to enable Judges properly master the stakes involved in the independence of the Judiciary.

2) Human Resources in the Justice Sector

a) Increasing the Number of Personnel of the Justice Sector

136- The number of **non- Judicial and Legal Officers** slightly increased. Thus, following Decree No. 2021/701 of 13 December 2021, 20 Court Registry Administrators of the 2018-2020 batch of the National School of Administration and Magistracy (ENAM) were absorbed into the Corps of Court Registrars. Furthermore, following Order No. 513/MINJUSTICE/DAG/SDPJ of 31 December 2021, MINJUSTICE published the final list of successful candidates of the direct competitive examination for the recruitment into the Corps of Court Registrars of 200 Assistant Court Registrars, of the 25 September 2021 Session. Following Communiqué

No. 512/MINJUSTICE of 29 December 2021, MINJUSTICE published the list of 150 Secretaries (men and women), who passed the selection test organised for the courts, central and decentralised services of the Ministry. The number of staff members thus moved from 4,659 in 2020 (that is 3,306 civil servants and 1,353 non-civil servants) to 4,942 in 2021 (that is 3,308 civil servants and 1,634 non-civil servants).

137- Moreover, the status of non-Judicial and Legal Officers was improved upon through Decree No. 2021/442 of 20 December 2021 to amend and supplement Decree No. 2011/20 of 4 February 2011 to lay down the Special Rules and Regulations of the Corps of Court Registrars. This instrument lays down new conditions for recruitment and allows State agents who have demonstrated great professional adaptation to be absorbed into the Corps of Court Registrars.

138- Regarding **Judicial and Legal Officers**, as the Higher Judicial Council did not sit in 2021, the numbers remained relatively stable, moving from 1,826 in 2020 to 1,806. This slight decrease in number mainly had to do with deaths and dismissals. These statistics only concern the Magistrates under MINJUSTICE.

b) Capacity-Building for Personnel of the Justice Sector

139- Capacity-building for personnel of the justice sector included collection of statistics from courts, administrative Law, OHADA Business Law, chemical safety and emergency intervention, intellectual property rights, management and optimisation of public procurement, International Humanitarian Law, archiving, International Public Law, wildlife crime, fight against terrorism, international judicial cooperation and cybercrime. These capacity-building activities which took place in several towns in Cameroon, and abroad (France and Cote d'Ivoire), resulted in the training of 270 of the said personnel.

140- Regarding capacity-building in Human Rights in particular, on 9, 10 and 11 March 2021, MINJUSTICE organised a workshop to disseminate recommendations formulated by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (coupled with the validation of the mid-term Report on to the said Committee). MINJUSTICE also organised a series of workshops

on the deprivation of liberty, the protection of children in contact with the law, gender based violence, international Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law (see §66).

141- Some of these workshops which were attended by more than 125 Judicial and Legal Officers were organised with the support of UNICEF, UN Women and the United Nations Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa (UNCHD-AC).

3) Consolidating Ethical Obligations of Judicial Personnel of the Justice Sector

a) Ensuring the Principle of Hierarchical Subordination

142- The principle of hierarchical subordination was reiterated during the annual Meeting of 18 and 19 October mentioned above. The administrative hierarchical subordination of Legal Officers was discussed, with emphasis on its exercise in terms of granting of rewards, promotion and disciplinary proceedings in the event of dereliction. Also highlighted was control by hierarchy of the court activities of Legal Officers in view of the missions of the Legal Department (representative of the sovereign people and guarantor of the Rule of Law). The Meeting also examined the exercise of the principle of hierarchical subordination by those in charge of ensuring same (the Minister of Justice, Procureurs General and State Counsel), its characteristics (vertical and functional), its terms and conditions (exercised within the same Legal Department and within the limits of the law) and its scope.

143- At the end of deliberations, a recommendation was directed to Procureurs General at the Courts of Appeal to ensure the strict respect of the said principle which includes the obligation to report and comply with instructions received, while resisting any form of interference. Another recommendation made was to ensure the training of judicial personnel, laying emphasis on rules of ethics and deontology.

b) Control and Evaluation of Courts

144- The Inspectorate General of Judicial Services (IGJS) of MINJUSTICE controlled and evaluated courts through documents and on site visits. Document control was conducted by this working Unit through the use of quarterly statistics on court activities and pre-trial detentions submitted by Heads

of Courts of Appeal. The statistics were analysed and summarised to allow the Minister of Justice to have an overview of the productivity of Judicial Officers on the one hand and mastery of pre-trial detentions on the other hand.

145- On-site control consisted in the IGJS controlling and evaluating the Registry of the Wouri High Court, Benches and Registries of the Douala-Bonanjo, Douala-Ndokoti and Douala-Bonaberi Courts of First Instance in the months of June, August, September and October 2021.

c) Disciplinary Follow-up of Personnel of the Justice Sector

146- The IGJS processed 212 complaints (compared to 185 in 2020). It ordered 46 investigations (compared to 29 in 2019 and 52 in 2020), sent 35 observation letters, (as opposed to 1 in 2019 and 1 in 2020), 28 queries (compared to 3 in 2019 and 1 in 2020) and 69 observation requests (as opposed to 18 in 2019 and 30 in 2020). Moreover, it referred 7 cases to the disciplinary body compared to 3 in 2019 and 1 in 2020.

147- Similarly, at the end of the disciplinary procedures initiated against them, 7 magistrates were dismissed from the Corps of Judicial and Legal Officers by the Head of State, mainly for abandonment of duty. For the same reason, the Minister of Justice dismissed 43 Court Registrars from the Corps of Court Registrars.

4) Funds allocated to the Justice Sector

148- Pursuant to Law No. 2020/18 of 17 December 2020, the Finance Law of the Republic of Cameroon for the 2021 Financial Year, as amended and supplemented by Ordinance No. 2021/4 of 29 December 2021, a budget was allocated to the Justice sector. This budget increased for the Constitutional Council, but reduced slightly for MINJUSTICE and the Supreme Court.

149- The sum of CFAF 60,549,000 000⁴² was allocated to MINJUSTICE which was 1.24% less than in 2020 as shown in the table below:

⁴² About 92, 441, 221. 37 Euros.

Table 2: Budget allocated to MINJUSTICE (in millions of CFAF⁴³)

Financial years	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
MINJUSTICE Budget	20 000	33 119	46 259	47 992	44 810	59 498	63 454	66 316	65 825	60 549
Operating	18 000	30 619	42 187	42 920	41 750	56 298	58 778	60 146	60 325	56 029
Investment	2 000	2 500	4 072	5 072	3 072	3 200	4 676	6 170	5 500	4 520
Share of the National budget in %	0.70%	1.04%	1.39%	1.38%	1.05%	1.36%	1.31%	1.38%	1.32%	1.24%

Source: MINJUSTICE

150- The budget of the **Constitutional Council** moved from CFAF 2,774,000,000⁴⁴ in 2019 to CFAF 3,244,000,000⁴⁵ in 2020, then to CFAF 3,744,000,000⁴⁶ in 2021.

151- Meanwhile, the budget of the **Supreme Court**, which had been constantly increasing since 2017 (that is, CFAF 2,862,000,000⁴⁷ in 2017, CFAF 3,336,000,000⁴⁸ in 2018, CFAF 4,504,000,000⁴⁹ in 2019 and CFAF 5,503,000,000⁵⁰ in 2020), dropped to CFAF 4 130 000 000⁵¹ in 2021.

SECTION 2: IMPLEMENTING PROCEDURAL GUARANTEES OF FAIR TRIAL

152- Regarding procedural guarantees, the exercise of the right to fair trial was seen through the respect for fair and public hearings, ensuring the rights of the defence, and the right to appeal.

⁴³ CFAF 1 million is equivalent to 1,518.72 Euros.

⁴⁴ About 4,227,825.03 Euros.

⁴⁵ About 4,944,147.22 Euros.

⁴⁶ About 1,135, 877.86 Euros.

⁴⁷ About 4,361,944.93 Euros.

⁴⁸ About 5,084,363.48 Euros.

⁴⁹ About 6,864,500.33 Euros.

⁵⁰ About 8,387,066.02 Euros.

⁵¹ About 6,305,343.51 Euros.

§1: Strengthening Fair Hearings

153- Beyond the concern pertaining to reasoned judgments, the right to fair hearing was strengthened through the principles of adversarial proceedings and equality of arms.

154- During the afore-mentioned Annual Meeting of Heads of Courts of Appeal and Regional Delegates of Penitentiary Administration, Judges were urged to pass legally sound and credible decisions. Thus Judges were reminded of the obligation for their decisions to be based on facts and law.

155- Judges generally respected the principles of adversarial proceedings and equality of arms. For adversarial proceedings, they ensured that accused persons or civil defendants were informed of proceedings against them and that parties communicated to each other factual and legal arguments and evidence. For equality of arms, Judges based their decision only on submissions and evidence during the hearing.

156- Thus, in the case *The People and the State of Cameroon vs. K.T.S.B and 5 others*, the subject of Judgement No. 007/CRIM/TCS of 31 March 2021, the SCC rejected a request for the nullity of proceedings due to the violation of the right to fair trial, explaining that they had respected and ensured the respect of the principle of adversarial proceedings and equality of arms.

§2: Ensuring Public Hearings

157- The principle remained that of public hearings but exceptionally, in camera hearings were ordered.

A: Public Hearings

158- Hearings were held in public and decisions rendered in public. The table below illustrates the number of proceedings held in open court.

Table 3: Statistics on Public Hearings

Courts	CFI		Tribunal de Premier Degré		HC		CA		SC	
	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021
Number of Public hearings	89,136	110,012	46,577	62,237	16,488	9,333	65,809	72,237	...	1017

Source: MINJUSTICE

B: Hearings in Camera: The Exception

159- In some cases, hearings in camera were ordered for all or part of the proceedings depending on considerations of general interest (public order or State security) or in the interest of the parties (protection of minors or protection of private life). Except where the law provides for (such as before courts for minors), it was the responsibility of Judges to rule on the possibility of hearings in camera (within the courtroom but behind closed doors or in chambers).

Table 4: Comparison of proceedings in camera in 2020 and 2021

Courts	Number of proceedings held in camera					
	On the Court's own motion				At the request of the parties	
	Minors					
	Perpetrators		Victims			
	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021
CFI	699	315	22	113	160	96
TPD	35	7	4	1	95	1,555
HC	49	26	36	20	38	495
CA	1	5	2	1	0	36
SC	***	***	***	***	***	39

Source: MINJUSTICE

§3: Preservation of the Rights of Defendants

160- The right to assistance by Counsel, the right to be tried in the language one understands best and the right to be tried within a reasonable time were preserved.

A: Right to be assisted by Counsel

161- Litigants benefited from the right to be assisted by Counsel, be it Lawyers or other professionals.

1) Assistance by Lawyers

162- Except for cases where representation by a Lawyer was compulsory, litigants were at liberty in all matters to be represented by counsel or not.

Table 5: Exercise of the Right to Counsel

Courts	Number of pre-trial detainees (PTD) / Accused (AC) / Complainants (CMP) / Applicants (APL) / Defendants (DF)										Number of Lawyers assigned by court	Counsel briefed by the parties
	Civil		Labour		Customary law		Misdemeanour		Felonies			
	APL	DF	APL	DF	APL	DF	CMP	PTD	CMP	AC		
CFI	5,817	4,549	1,119	1,149	5,560	3,318	11,369	11,977	5	31	123	5,368
HC	2,533	2,227	636	657	9	7	31	40	3,789	4,144	691	1642
CA	1,141	97	589	283	45	56	1,474	869	289	438	82	2,261
SC	...	...	...	...	...	...	101	121	38	34	...	...

Source: MINJUSTICE

163- Moreover, the number of Lawyers was increased with the swearing-in and entry into the Bar roll of several former Magistrates as well as Lawyers from foreign Bars working in New York, London, South Africa, Rwanda and Nigeria. For example, in April 2021, 44 applicants took the Lawyer's oath before the Centre Court of Appeal.

164- To enable them provide best quality representation, the skills of the Lawyers were enhanced. As such, Lawyers attended workshops on gender based violence (see §66). Furthermore, on 23 and 24 March; 6, 7 and 9 December 2021 in Yaounde; 11 and 12 November 2021 in Douala, Lawyers attended a series of discussion workshops between the key stakeholders of the Criminal Chain in Cameroon, organised by GIZ. These workshops focused notably on the rights provided for by the Criminal Procedure Code.

165- Regarding discipline, the Department of Judicial Professions of MINJUSTICE registered 158 complaints against Lawyers essentially on grounds of breach of confidence and professional negligence.

2) Assistance by other Professionals

166- Some litigants received assistance before administrative courts from Tax Consultants. On 31 October 2021, there were 114 individual and 11 company Tax Consultants registered with the National Order of Tax Consultants. Litigants were also represented by other professionals and by academics. In localities where there are less than 4 law firms, some parties were assisted by *Agents d’Affaires*.

B: Right to be tried in the Language One Understands Best

167- Thanks to Interpreters assigned to some courts, parties were tried in French or in English. Courts where Interpreters had not been assigned resorted to the use of *ad hoc* Interpreters. Where mother tongues were used, it was necessary to resort to Interpreters.

168- The following table contains statistics on assistance by an interpreter.

Table 6: Comparative Information on Assistance by an Interpreter

Courts	Number of Interpreters posted to courts		Number of appeals concerning quality (identity, age, swearing-in...) and qualification (language...) of the Interpreter			
			Appeals relating to quality		Appeals relating to qualification	
	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021
CFI	32	27	0	0	4	0
HC	27	21	0	0	4	0
CA	18	6	0	0	12	0
AC	1	1	0	0	0	0
SCC	2	2	...	...	...	...
SC	5	5	...	...	...	...

Source: MINJUSTICE

C: Right to be tried within a Reasonable Time

169- The right to be tried within a reasonable time remained a challenge. More initiatives were adopted to overcome this challenge. In this vein, during controls, the IGJS of MINJUSTICE continued to lay special emphasis on the speediness of proceedings. Similarly, increasing the number of Non-Judicial and Legal Officers helped to reduce the time for the treatment of cases. Also, during capacity-building sessions organised by MINJUSTICE, participants were educated on this matter.

170- Within the jurisdiction of the Adamawa Court of Appeal, a working session bringing together State Counsel and Judicial Police Officers took place on 26 May 2021 under the theme *"the role of Judicial Police Officers in the fight against judicial delays"*. Participants had to agree on good practices that would ensure quick handling of files. At the end of deliberations, resolutions were adopted to improve the efficiency of the judicial police.

171- In the same light, some Heads of Legal Departments defined deadlines for processing of files. At the Bench, as part of their administrative duty, Presidents of Courts of Appeal, Administrative Courts and lower courts were to ensure speedy processing of proceedings.

172- On their part, courts rejected applications, especially interlocutory applications, which often delayed the hearing of proceedings. Thus, in the case of **F.S vs. D.B.C**, the Mounjo HC through Judgment No. 23/CIV of 13 August 2021, rejected an application to stay proceedings which it considered as vexatious.

173- Despite these measures, the right to a trial within a reasonable time was a concern.

§4: The Right to Appeal

174- The Legal Department and litigants enjoyed the right to have their case re-examined. There were cases of non-payment of costs for the reproduction of records of proceedings.

Table 7: Exercise of the Right to Appeal in 2021

Appeals	Number of appeals received					Appellants			Number of appeals not transferred due to non-payment of costs for the reproduction of case files					Outcome of appeals									
	T P D	C F I	H C	C A	S C	T P	P ar ties	O th ers	T P D	C F I	H C	C A	S C	T P D	C F I	H C	C A	S C	T P D	C F I	H C	C A	S C
Third party proceedings	276	315	15	3	...	3	281	94	000	000	000	/	/	333	600	000	/	/	466	900	000	...	...
Application to set aside judgement in default	146	1304	156	351	...	00	1341	4	00	11	00	00	00	15	52	00	00	00	19	123	11	3	...
Appeals	481	4396	755	3440	/	544	6680	337	279	489	436	326	/	00	22	21522	/	/	00	14	1147	/	/
Appeal to the Supreme Court	/	6	20	1041	/	3798	1	00	02	00	79	/	/	00	00	00	130	/	00	00	00	205	/

Source: MINJUSTICE

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175- In conclusion, the right to fair trial was implemented through institutional and procedural guarantees including equal access to justice, competent, impartial and independent court, fair and public hearing, right to counsel and right to appeal. However, there were many challenges such as difficulty to gather some members of judicial commissions and insufficient budgets allocated to the public service of justice.

CHAPTER

3

**FREEDOM OF
EXPRESSION AND
COMMUNICATION**

176- Increase in information exchange and evolving means of communication let the State to adapt to the new era characterised by the shifting of borders, instantaneous management of information, and the emergence of online delinquency. Therefore, the challenge was to continue to guarantee freedom of expression and communication, by providing reliable information, and especially securing communication via the Internet. To achieve this, it was necessary to provide a variety of means of accessing information, securing the use of information and communication technologies (ICTs) and continuing the regulation of this freedom.

SECTION 1: DIVERSIFIED MEANS OF ACCESS TO INFORMATION

177- There was relative progress in some sources of information, consistency in the reduction of the digital divide and continuation of State support through aid to private communication.

§1: Development of Information Sources

178- There were about 650 print media outlets, 250 radio broadcasting stations, 50 television channels and 165 cable operators. This was a relative increase as in the previous year, the print media sector had 600 outlets, the television sector 35 channels, and the cable television sector 150 operators.

179- The National Press Card Commission met on 22 September 2021. Out of the 63 files examined, 13 were approved and 20 files required submission of additional documents, while 30 were rejected.

§2: Consistent Reduction of the Digital Divide

180- On 15 July 2021, Cameroon and Gabon inaugurated the interconnection of electronic communications between the two countries as part of the Central African Backbone Project. Financed by the World Bank and other partners, the project is intended to connect countries in the sub-region by fibre optics, with the added value of improving the supply of electronic services by 99% and the availability of high-speed Internet.

181- However, regarding the diversification of international connectivity, budgetary constraints linked to the Covid-19 pandemic hampered the

construction of submarine cable landing points. As a result, fixed and mobile teledensity rates remained unchanged⁵².

§3: Continuation of State Support to Privately-Owned Media

182- State support stood at CFAF 120,000,000⁵³, compared to CFAF 240,000,000⁵⁴ for the previous year, a reduction by half, justified by the socio-economic context.

SECTION 2: SECURING ACCESS TO INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES

183- With a view to guaranteeing integrity in the use of ICTs, Government continued to build the capacity of cyberspace stakeholders, protect national cyberspace by conducting security audits, maintain security watch and raise awareness among users of telecommunication services.

§1: Capacity-Building

184- The National Agency for Information and Communication Technologies (ANTIC) organised: a capacity-building seminar for Regional and Local Authorities on ICTs in Ebolowa from 9 to 11 March 2021; a workshop on data protection for State employees in Buea from 30 June to 2 July 2021; a Conference on computer security in Douala from 24 to 27 August 2021; an awareness-raising seminar for Judicial and Legal Officers of the Special Criminal Court on cybersecurity and cybercrime in Yaounde from 15 to 17 September 2021; a Seminar on securing administrative documents in the era of digital transformation in Yaounde from 29 September to 1 October 2021; a workshop on risk assessment of national critical infrastructure in Yaounde on 25 November 2021; a Workshop on child protection online from 24 to 26 November 2021 in Yaounde; and a capacity-building seminar for teachers in the North West Region on cybersecurity and the fight against cybercrime from 8 to 10 December 2021 in Bamenda.

⁵² 03.6% for fixed teledensity and 74.34% for mobile teledensity in 2020.

⁵³ About 183,206. 11 Euros.

⁵⁴ About 366, 412. 21 Euros.

185- ANTIC also assisted judicial authorities and various national security agencies⁵⁵ to gather digital evidence, identify cybercriminals and prosecute them before competent courts.

§2: Security Audits

186- In order to assess the security and reliability of information systems, vulnerability tests were conducted on 12 ministries, 10 public administrative institutions, 7 credit institutions, a mobile phone operator and on an Internet service provider. Out of 30 audit missions conducted, ANTIC detected 5,660 threats. These findings helped strengthen the security of the said information systems.

§3: Security Watch

187- ANTIC detected 5,105 fake accounts on social media between 2019 and 2021, 3,750 of which were closed, representing 75%. Furthermore, security gaps were identified and addressed following 7 attacks on the websites of public administrations. In addition, 157 files for authentication of digital evidence were received, compared to 22 files in 2020, representing an increase of 613,63%. There were 11,128 summonses from Administrations, 30 complaints by victims of cyber blackmail, 39 complaints of hacking, 26 complaints of harassment, 85 complaints of scams via electronic wallets, 5 complaints of malicious content, and 2 complaints of ransomware. Some 7 Facebook pages were certified by ANTIC, bringing the number to 49.

188- Similarly, 153 security alerts were issued and more than 10,000 threats were detected during scans on 120 websites and applications.

§4: Awareness-Raising for Users of Telecommunication Services

189- These include awareness-raising activities for users carried out by the Telecommunications Regulatory Board (ART).

190- A plan to raise awareness, inform and educate electronic communications consumers on their rights and obligations was drawn up at the beginning of the year, then reviewed with a view to adapting it to the health crisis and to the organisation of World Consumer Rights Day, celebrated

⁵⁵ MINDEF, SED, DGSN, DGRE, etc.

every 15 March. It consisted of the production and broadcasting, via social media, of a 1 minute and 22 second advertising spot on the rights of users of telecommunication services and the use of the toll-free number "1515" to record users' claims and complaints.

191- From 17 to 29 May 2021, the ART Regional Delegation of the North organised an awareness caravan for consumers of electronic communication products and services in the cities of Garoua and Ngaoundere and their environs. This visit was done in collaboration with consumers' rights associations, including the Association for the Protection of Human Rights and Consumers of the Sahel area and the Association for the Protection and Defence of Consumers. Moreover, radio programmes were broadcast on *Radio Salaaman*, which has diverse listeners. In total, 3 programmes were presented and rebroadcast over a period of 3 weeks.

192- Discussions during this caravan focused on subscriber identification, the consumer guide of good practices, the procedure for reporting cases to ART and the dissemination of the "1515" toll-free number.

193- ART participated in a campaign to raise awareness among students on good cyber practices, organised by the Association for the Promotion of Responsible Use of Cyber Space (APURCE) in Douala on 3 February 2021.

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

194- The proliferation of pornographic videos (sextapes) and cases of immorality prompted the State to take measures towards regulating the digital sphere, to continue to build the capacity of stakeholders of the media sector, while addressing their errors.

§1: Regulating the Digital Sphere

195- It was observed that the right to privacy was violated by the proliferation of sex tapes, which sometimes involved students and celebrities. On 16 June 2021, photographs and videos depicting sexual acts committed in an office were published on the web. Following a complaint lodged by **M.B.** the victim, an investigation was opened, and **W.E.** and **M.C.M.** were arrested and brought before the State Counsel's Chambers of the

Douala-Bonanjo Court of First Instance. They were remanded in custody and prosecuted before this court for complicity in obscene publications and invasion of privacy. The case was still ongoing by the end of 2021.

196- The commonality between all these cases is the use of social media, especially the Whatsapp application, to disseminate videos.

197- The Minister of Women's Empowerment and the Family strongly condemned the various sexual scandals in a statement on 21 June 2021. For his part, the Minister of Communication, the government spokesperson, affirmed in a statement in November 2021 that: "these criminal acts constitute serious Human Rights violations".

198- On their part, the courts sanctioned infringements on the dignity of persons and their property through electronic communication. This was the case in Judgment No. 351/COR of 25 August 2021 delivered by the Court of First Instance of Bertoua, in which **T.S.A.E.** was found guilty of defamation by electronic means, and sentenced to a prison term of 4 months and a fine of CFAF 500,000⁵⁶, as well as payment of the sum of CFAF 350,000⁵⁷ as damages to **M.T.S.**, the plaintiff. The case was pending before the East Court of Appeal following an appeal by the plaintiff.

§2: Sanctioning Abuses in the Media and Electronic Communications Sector

199- Journalists were sanctioned by the National Communication Council and by the Courts. The Telecommunications Regulatory Board (ART) also ensured the protection of users of electronic communications services.

A: Regulation by the National Communication Council

200- The National Communication Council (NCC) registered 22 complaints, 8 of which were lodged by individuals, 5 by public authorities, 5 by various institutions, in addition to 4 cases of which it seized itself. In 2021, the NCC took 21 decisions, including 15 temporary suspensions for a period of less than 6 months, one temporary suspension for a period equal to 6 months, 2 warnings and dismissed 3 cases.

⁵⁶ About 763.36 Euros.

⁵⁷ About 534. 35 Euros.

201- Following actions constituting violation of ethics and professional deontology in social communication, several sanctions were pronounced by the NCC on 8 April 2021. The Director of publication of the *La Nouvelle* newspaper was suspended for one month for publishing an unfounded and offensive statement. A journalist of the same newspaper was suspended for similar reasons; a journalist working for *Le Zénith* newspaper was suspended for 2 months for failure to meet professional standards and ensure balance in information published; the Director of publication and a journalist of a print media outlet known as *Le Miroir* were suspended for one month for unfounded and offensive accusations; a journalist working for *La voix du Centre* newspaper was suspended for 2 months for publishing an article containing unfounded, offensive and insinuating accusations.

202- On the same date, a journalist working for *Galaxy Fm* radio station was suspended for 3 months for professional misconduct following the broadcasting of indecent language; the Director of Publication and a journalist of *Le Point Hebdo* newspaper were suspended for 1 month for publishing unfounded, offensive statements; the Acting Director of Publication and a journalist of *l'Epervier* newspaper were suspended for 3 months for publishing unfounded and offensive statements.

203- Moreover, on the same date: a journalist working for the *DBS* TV station was suspended for a period of 1 month for professional misconduct following a lack of supervision and for the broadcasting of unfounded and offensive accusations; a journalist working for *Satellite Fm* radio station was suspended for a period of 2 months for broadcasting insults and unfounded accusations contrary to the rules to be respected by fellow journalists; a journalist working for *Galaxy Fm* radio broadcasting station was suspended for one month for broadcasting offensive remarks; the Director of Publication and a journalist of *Essingan* print media outlet were suspended for one month for publishing unfounded, offensive and insinuating accusations; a journalist working for *La Cloche Hebdo* newspaper was suspended for 3 months for publishing unfounded, offensive and insinuating accusations

204- On 6 July 2021, the Director of Publication of *RIS RADIO* station was suspended for 1 month for professional misconduct following insufficient investigation leading to the dissemination of unfounded and offensive information, as well as for 3 months for the dissemination of unfounded,

offensive and insinuating accusations. On the same day, a six-month suspension was also pronounced against the Director of Publication of *Confidences* newspaper for failure to meet professional requirements of investigation and balance in the processing of published information.

205- In the same vein, on 12 November 2021, a journalist of *Le Calame* was suspended for 2 months for professional inadequacy leading to the publication of unfounded, offensive and insinuating accusations.

206- Also, on 8 April 2021, warnings were issued to the General Manager of Creolink Communications, a Cameroonian cable television company, for retransmission of *France Télévisions'* channels without full corresponding payments, and on 6 September 2021 to the Director of Publication of *Telegram News* newspaper, for professional misconduct following insufficient investigation leading to the publication of unfounded, offensive and insinuating statements.

207- In contrast, cases against *La Missive* newspaper and some journalists of the *Kalara* and *EcoMatin* newspapers were dismissed respectively on 8 April 2021 and 12 November 2021.

B: Sanctioning violations by Journalists by the Courts

208- The courts heard 17 cases relating to defamation by way of the press; one was at the level of preliminary inquiry and 16 were before the courts. Most cases against journalists before the courts were for violation of the interests of individuals. On 18 May 2021, after finding **P.C.** guilty of defamation and propagation of false news to the detriment of **C.B.**, the Court of First Instance Yaounde - Centre *Administratif*, sentenced the accused to 23 months in prison and ordered him to pay the victim the sum of CFAF 2,000,000⁵⁸ as damages.

C: Regulation by the Telecommunications Regulatory Board

209- ART (General Directorate and Regional Delegations of the Centre, Littoral and North) received 75 written complaints and 13 verbal complaints from subscribers against Orange Cameroon, MTN Cameroon (MTNC), Viettel Cameroon and CAMTEL telephone operators. The complaints concerned unjustified bandwidth tariffs, poor quality of service, defective termi-

⁵⁸ About 3 053. 43 Euros.

nals, unilateral modification of contract for the payment of bills etc. While some cases were settled by the parties prior to any conciliation before the regulator, others required the regulator's intervention to be resolved. A total of 5 complaints led to the opening of a conciliation procedure.

210- For example, in the case of Mr **D.** vs MTN Cameroon, the company was accused of having unilaterally modified the contract for the payment of bills for the Easy Box internet offer between the 20th and 25th of the month. The case ended with the signing of a conciliation report on 17 May 2021. In accordance with Mr D.'s claims, MTN Cameroon operator offered him one year free internet connection including the replacement of obsolete equipment and CFAF 100,000⁵⁹ of communication airtime.

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211- Overall, the Government continued to guarantee access to information by diversifying media outlets. The reorganisation of the press sector and the protection of consumers of telecommunication services was also pursued through the implementation of sanctions against media and telephone operators. However, the digital divide and the improvement of the quality of Internet services were a real challenge.

⁵⁹About 152. 67 Euros.

CHAPTER

4

RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE MANAGEMENT OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

212- Actions carried out by the State to guarantee the right to participate in the management of public affairs were directed towards strengthening decentralisation, enhancing efficiency in the public service, ensuring collaboration between political stakeholders and guaranteeing electoral rights of citizens.

SECTION 1: GUARANTEEING ELECTORAL RIGHTS OF CITIZENS

213- The electoral rights of citizens can be classified into two categories: the right to vote and the right to stand for elections. With a view to guaranteeing the right to vote, partial regional elections were organised, electoral lists revised and new political parties authorised to contribute to the exercise of the right to vote. Regarding the right to stand for elections, the terms of office of some elected officials were interrupted for diverse reasons.

§1: Organisation of Partial Regional Elections

214- Following Decree No. 2021/1 of 4 January 2021, the President of the Republic convened the electoral college of the Menoua constituency made up of traditional rulers for the election of representatives of traditional rulers of the Menoua Division in the West Regional Council. In effect, the only list that remained in contest⁶⁰ during the 6 December 2020 election was rejected by the Administrative Bench of the Supreme Court, on the grounds that it did not respect the sociological component of the constituency as provided for in Section 246 of Law No. 2012/1 of 19 April 2012 relating to the Electoral Code, as amended and supplemented by Law No. 2012/17 of 21 December 2012 and Law No. 2019/5 of 25 April 2019.

215- The election actually took place on 4 April 2021. Per the report of the Regional Supervisory Commission, out of 185 persons who make up the electoral college, 148 voted and 10 abstained, representing a participation rate of 93.67%. With 3 traditional rulers declared elected,⁶¹ the number of members of the West Regional Council moved to 90.

⁶⁰ Following the rejection of the other 2 competing lists by resolution of the Electoral Board of Elections Cameroon on 2 October 2020.

⁶¹ These include His Majesty **Gabriel TSIDIE** (Chief of Bamendou grouping), His Majesty **Placide NGUEFACK** (Chief of Fossong-Wentcheng grouping) and His Majesty **Benjamin MFOKO** (Chief of Fonquetafou village).

§2: Revision of the Electoral Registers

216- On 2 January 2021, Elections Cameroon (ELECAM) began the annual campaign to revise the electoral register. ELECAM also continued to issue electoral cards to citizens newly registered on the electoral register.

217- Despite the Covid-19 pandemic which was a hindrance to the deployment of ELECAM workers, citizens demonstrated particular enthusiasm in registering on the electoral register despite the fact that no popular vote was scheduled during the year.

Table 1: Voters entered on the Electoral Register

REGIONS	Year 2020	Year 2021
Adamawa	449,151	455,149
Centre	1,213,621	1,223,398
East	332,131	335,728
Far North	1,147,102	1,157,064
Littoral	998,300	1,016,176
North	696,111	709,997
North West	599,772	599,097
West	775,046	790,061
South	272,344	277,228
South West	373,233	376,525
GRAND TOTAL	6,856,811	6,959,848

Source: ELECAM

218- At the end of the revision process on 31 August 2021, the electoral register had a total of 6,959,848 voters that is 103,037 newly registered voters in 2021, compared to 15,077 in 2020.

§3: Authorisation of New Political Parties

219- Pursuant to Law No. 90/56 of 19 December 1990 relating to political parties, the Minister of Territorial Administration authorised the legal existence of 11 new political parties. The names and authorities in charge of these parties are contained in the table below:

Table 2: New political parties authorised in the year 2021

No.	Names of political parties	Authorities in charge
1	Alliance Patriotique du Cameroun (APAR)	DJAMEN Célestin
2	Organisation du Mouvement Patriotique (OMP)	ONANA Benoit Bertrand
3	Jouvence-La jeunesse camerounaise en politique (JOUVENCE-JCP/CYP)	BESSALA Valère Bertrand
4	Onction pour la Paix et le Développement du Cameroun (OPDC)	MVONDO Germain
5	Union Démocratique du Peuple Camerounais (UDPC)	ESSENGUE OKAKA Richard
6	Serviteur du Peuple Camerounais (SDPC)	TANGA Charles François
7	Democratic Rally of Cameroon (DRC)	NJOYA SEIDOU Aliyou
8	Union pour la Réalisation de la Nécessité Africaine (URNA)	LIGOM Félix
9	Citoyens Actifs du Cameroun (CAC)	ETEME Patrick Serge
10	Alliance Démocratique des Handicapés et Sympathisants du Cameroun (ADHSC)	KOUATI Magloire
11	Forces Modernes des Démocrates Camerounais (FMDC)	DJOUMOUTOUOMOU

Source: MINAT

220- As at 31 December 2021, Cameroon had a total of 329 authorised political parties.

§4: Interruption of the terms of office of some elected officials

221- The terms of office of several elected officials both at national and local levels were interrupted due to death.

222- At the national level, 6 Members of Parliament (MPs) of the National Assembly died in 2021. They were the MPs of Mayo Tsanaga Division in the Far North Region; Boumba and Ngoko in the East Region; Fako in the South West Region; Sanaga Maritime and Wouri in the Littoral Region; and Lekie in the Centre Region. This number slightly increased compared to 2020 when 3 deaths were registered⁶². As at 31 December 2021, there were only 171 MPs at the National Assembly out of the 180 elected during the 2020 legislative elections. Four senators also died within the same year⁶³.

⁶² The MPs from Mayo-Louti Division in the North Region; Mayo Kani and Mayo-Tsanaga in the Far North Region.

⁶³ These were some senators from the East, West, North West and South West Regions.

223- At local level, regional councillors, mayors and deputy mayors also suffered the same fate. This was the case with the President of the North Regional Council; 4 regional councillors from the West Region; 5 regional councillors from the North West Region; mayors of the Bamendjou, Bangangte and Demdeng councils in the West Region, Njombe-Penja in Littoral Region, Meyomessi in the South Region; and the 1st deputy mayor of Garoua 2 Council in the North Region.

224- Replacements were effected for municipal councillors, but this was not the case for the regional and national elected officials, and this somewhat, violates the rights of the people to participate in the management of public affairs.

SECTION 2: STRENGTHENING DECENTRALISATION

225- After completing the decentralisation process in 2020, the Government committed to a process of strengthening this mode of governance. This commitment was observed in 2021 at the normative, institutional, financial, human and operational levels.

§1: Regulating Terms and Conditions Governing the Exercise of some Devolved Powers

226- Several decrees were signed on 28 December 2021 relating to the terms and conditions governing the exercise of some devolved powers. They include Decree No. 2021/744 to lay down the terms and conditions governing the exercise of some town planning and housing powers devolved upon Regions by the State⁶⁴, Decree No. 2021/745 to lay down the conditions governing the exercise of some powers devolved by the State upon Regions for participation in the organisation and management of interurban public transport⁶⁵, Decree No. 2021/746 to lay down conditions governing the exercise of some powers devolved by the State upon

⁶⁴ Pursuant to this Decree, the powers devolved in this sector concern: participating in the preparation of urban planning documents (DPU) and master plans; supporting the actions of councils in town planning and housing matters.

⁶⁵ The powers devolved in this sector concern: participation in the construction and management of regional interurban public transport infrastructure; participation in the promotion and coordination of road safety activities; development of the regional transport plan; and issuance of some public transport documents.

Regions in the area of tourism and leisure⁶⁶, and Decree No. 2021/747 to lay down conditions governing the exercise of some environmental protection powers devolved upon Regions by the State⁶⁷.

227- Following the provisions of these Decrees, these powers shall be devolved and resources required to execute them transferred alongside.

228- These instruments thus give the Regions the tools which will enable them implement their prerogatives, for the well-being of the people.

§2: Institutional Level

229- The State went on to effectively set up regional councils and commission Public Independent Conciliators as well as specifying the standard organisation of regional administration.

A: The Effective Set up of Regional Councils

230- Though regional councillors were elected following the 6 December 2020 elections, it is in 2021 that regional assemblies and regional executive councils were effectively set up⁶⁸. The Government assisted⁶⁹ regional councils in drafting their budgets and supported them in acquiring premises and equipment which facilitated the start of their activities.

231- The first Secretaries General of the regional councils were appointed by Decree No. 2021/43 of 25 January 2021. Regional revenue officers were also appointed⁷⁰.

232- In terms of planning local development, a handbook for formulating regional development plans was drafted and adopted on 1 July 2021 at

⁶⁶ It concerns the promotion of regional tourism; creation and operation of regional recreational parks; organisation of regional leisure socio-cultural events.

⁶⁷ These powers are: preserving and implementing other local measures to protect nature; creating firewalls and early firing as part of the fight against bush fires; developing, implementing and monitoring regional environmental action plans.

⁶⁸ Presidents of Regional Councils took an oath before the competent Courts of Appeal in the month of January 2021.

⁶⁹ Through advisory support from a joint team made up of MINDDEVEL, MINEPAT and MINFI.

⁷⁰ The National Community-Driven Development Programme (PNDP) in collaboration with the Ministry of Finance and MINDDEVEL, organised a training seminar for newly appointed regional revenue collectors from 13 to 17 July 2021 at Mbankomo (Centre Region). The aim of the seminar was to enable them master financial transactions within accounting positions for which they are responsible and produce good management accounts.

the end of a workshop organised by the Ministry of Decentralisation and Local Development (MINDDEVEL)., The handbook which was later disseminated across the national territory, enabled most regional councils to adopt regional development plans aligned to the NDS30.

233- Challenges concern finalising the legal framework of the interventions of regional councils in terms of powers devolved, the setting up of the local public service and mobilisation of local revenue.

B: Commissioning of Public Independent Conciliators

234- Through Decree No. 2021/342 of 10 June 2021, the President of the Republic appointed Public Independent Conciliators in the North West⁷¹ and South-West Regions⁷². These Conciliators are provided for by Article 367 of the General Code of Regional and Local Authorities to consolidate the special status of these Regions.

C: Adoption of a Standard Organisation of Regional Administration

235- According to Decree No. 2021/742 of 28 December 2021, regional administration is organised under the authority of the President of the Regional Council and the Secretary-General.

236- The President of the Regional Council shall have a Private Secretariat. The Secretariat General shall consist of technical entities (Department of Economic and Social Development; Infrastructure and Regional Planning Division; and Department of General Affairs) and attached entities (Administrative and legal Affairs Unit; Information Systems Unit; Communications and Public Relations Unit; Mail, Documentation and Records Service). A financial Controller and a Regional Revenue officer shall be appointed for each Region.

237- To give the Regions room for manoeuvre, the decree provides for possible modification of the standard organisation (article 11 paragraph 2) or the merging of entities according to the interrelation of their duties (article 12) by decision of the Regional Council or Regional Assembly. This room for manoeuvre could be usefully applied by the North West and South West Regions to adapt the organisation of Regional Administration to the peculiarities of these Regions, given that the decree did not provide any special disposition for these Regions.

⁷¹ Mrs **TELELEN Dorothy ATABONG** épouse **MOTAZE**.

⁷² Mr **TAMFU Simon FAÏ**.

238- A standard organisation of regional Administration is appended to the afore-mentioned Decree.

§3: Finances

239- The common decentralisation fund was considerably increased and the local public finance management systems were strengthened.

A: Considerable Increase of the Common Decentralisation Fund

240- By Decree No. 2021/743 of 28 December 2021, the President of the Republic allocated CFAF 232,176,624,000⁷³ to the Common Decentralisation Fund for the 2021 Financial Year compared to CFAF 49,900,000,000⁷⁴ for the 2020 Financial Year, with CFAF 125,772,505,000⁷⁵ as general operating allocation compared to CFAF 13,900,000,000⁷⁶ in 2020, and CFAF 106,404,119,000⁷⁷ as general investment allocation compared to CFAF 36,000,000,000⁷⁸ in 2020. The Common Fund therefore increased by CFAF 182,276,624,000⁷⁹ compared to the year 2020.

241- Regarding the general operating allocation, CFAF 90 772,505,000⁸⁰ was reserved for devolved operating resources, while CFAF 35,000,000,000⁸¹ was reserved for the support of the decentralisation process and distributed as follows: CFAF 30,000,000,000⁸² for the establishment and functioning of Regions⁸³; CFAF 5,000,000,000⁸⁴ for other uses. The details of the distribution are presented in the tables below:

⁷³ About 354,468,128.2 Euros.

⁷⁴ About 76,183,206.1 Euros.

⁷⁵ About 192,019,091.60 Euros.

⁷⁶ About 21,221,374.04 Euros.

⁷⁷ About. 162,449,036.64 Euros

⁷⁸ About 54,961,832.06 Euros.

⁷⁹ About 278,284,922.13 Euros.

⁸⁰ About 138,583,977 Euros.

⁸¹ About 53,435,114.5 Euros.

⁸² About 45,801,526.71 euros.

⁸³ About CFAF 3,000,000,000 (about 4,580,152.67 Euros) per region.

⁸⁴ About 7,633,587.79 Euros.

Table 3: Distribution of grant for each Region with special status

No.	Use	Amounts in CFAF
1	Basic salary of the Regional Executive Council	34,800,000
2	Start-off equipment for the Regional Council	250,000,000
3	Start-off allocation for the budget of the Region granted a special status	2,715,200,000
Total		3,000,000,000

Source: Decree No. 2021/743 of 28 December 2021

Table 4: Distribution of grants for the other Regions

No.	Use	Amounts in CFAF
1	Basic salary of the President of the Regional Council and the Regional bureau	32,400,000
2	Start-off equipment for the Regional Council	250,000,000
3	Start-off allocation for the regional budget	2,717,600,000
Total		3,000,000,000

Source: Decree No. 2021/743 of 28 December 2021

Table 5: Distribution of the general operating allocation of the Common Decentralisation Fund in 2021

No.	Use	Amounts in CFAF
1	Remuneration of Mayors	2,250,000,000
2	Establishment and functioning of the Public Independent Conciliator in the North West and South West Regions	400,000,000
3	Functioning of the National Decentralisation Board	400,000,000
4	Functioning of the Inter-Ministerial Committee on Local Services	300,000,000
5	Functioning of the National Committee on Local Finances	165,000,000
6	Functioning of the Inter-Ministerial Committee on Decentralised Cooperation	50,000,000
7	Functioning of the Committee in charge of the monitoring the procedures for the payment of the basic salary of local authority executives	50,000,000
8	Financing of initiation workshops for newly elected officials and operational stakeholders in the Regions and Councils	190,000,000

No.	Use	Amounts in CFAF
9	Support for the National Skilled Trades Training Programme (<i>Programme National de Formation aux Métiers de la ville</i>)	60,000,000
10	Support for Council Unions	60,000,000
11	Printing and dissemination of the General Code of Regional and Local Authorities and its enabling instruments	25,000,000
12	Special operation for mass issuance of birth certificates	500,000,000
14	Support for the involvement of Devolved Services of the State providing assistance or support to, Councils and City Councils	550,000,000
Total		5,000,000,000

Source: Decree No. 2021/743 of 28 December 2021

B: Strengthening Local Public Financial Management Systems

242- As part of strengthening the financial systems of public administrations as provided for by the NDS30, MINDDEVEL, with the support of the French Development Agency and the European Union, organised a workshop in Yaounde from 16 to 18 November 2021 on *the evaluation of the public finance management system*. During this workshop, international experts using the *public expenditure and financial accountability* method evaluated 12 Regional and Local Authorities (RLAs) selected following socio-economic and geographic criteria⁸⁵. The objective of this exercise was to provide public authorities with a reference to refine the drafting of a local public finance reform plan and adapt the related financing system.

§4: Capacity Building for Local Elected Officials and Civil Servants

243- MINDDEVEL, MINEPAT and MINFI jointly and simultaneously organised workshops for staff and members of regional Council offices across Regions of the country from 6 to 8 April 2021, to enlighten them on the innovations of the General Code of RLAs, powers devolved by the State to RLAs, planning, programming, execution and monitoring of the programme budget as well as the role of various stakeholders in the decentralisation process.

244- On 1 July 2021, the Douala City Council with the support of the International Association of Francophone Mayors (AIMF) and the European

⁸⁵ They concern 4 city councils (Yaounde, Garoua, Maroua and Kribi), 2 sub-divisional councils (Douala 5 and Garoua 1) and 6 councils (Tiko, Obala, Ambam, Doumé, Yagoua and Dschang).

Union, organised a national workshop under the theme *ISO Standard 37101: stakes, priorities and specific constraints in the context of Cameroon cities*, with the aim to informing Mayors and regional Councillors of this standard as a tool for management and sustainable development which can improve the performance of projects and local public policies.

245- In August 2021, the Network for Decentralised Cooperation and Sustainable Development (RC3D)⁸⁶ organised a 10 day training session in Kribi for about 50 regional Councillors, Mayors and RLA management staff, on the provisions of the law to institute the General Code of RLAs, territorial digital marketing, maturation of projects, handling of financial and accounting documents, drafting of waste management master plans climate plans, etc.

246- The association, United Councils and Cities of Cameroon (UCCC), organised a capacity building workshop in Bafoussam for Mayors of the West Region on electrical safety from 3 to 6 November 2021. The goal was to empower these locally elected officials with skills to enable them improve the availability and density of the electricity net work as well as on mechanisms for preventing electricity related accidents.

247- On 15 November 2021, the centre regional council organised a workshop in Yaounde for its councillors under the theme *The general Code of RLAs: opportunities and challenges for the development of the Centre Region*. This workshop, which aimed to put all participants at the same level in terms of information, helped edify them on the decentralisation process, the role of the Senate in this process and relations between the Regions and State representatives to enable them be more efficient when preparing budgets and drafting the Regional Development Plan.

248- From 17 to 19 November 2021, the National Training Programme for City Trades (PNFMV) organised the first edition of Councils and Trades Professional Days (JPTM) under the theme *the secretary general of regional and local authorities: roles, challenges and prospects of the key rule of local administration in light of the implementation of the General Code for RLAs*. This activity sought to enhance understanding and mastery of the

⁸⁶ The RC3D is a non-profit organisation established in 2014. Based in Africa and Canada, it promotes development and decentralisation through an international cooperation network between States, LRAs, businesses and other CSOs.

function of the Secretary General of *regional and local authorities* and to facilitate their growth in a rapidly-changing local environment to enable them better support local public action.

§5: Operational Level

249- State actions included clarifying the relationship between the State and Regions, involving the population in the local development process and supporting council action.

A: Clarifying the Relationship between the State and Regions

250- With funding from French Cooperation, MINDDEVEL requested the Paul ANGO ELA Foundation to carry out a study to shed light on the relationship between the State and the Regions taking into consideration perceptions of the grassroots and main stakeholders⁸⁷. Results of this study were presented on 13 January 2021. After highlighting numerous delays that impede the implementation of the process, the study recommended a redrafting of some legal provisions to avoid overlapping between some ministries⁸⁸, acceleration of the devolution of powers and resources, provision of qualified personnel to RLAs and capacity building of locally elected officials on decentralisation and local development issues.

251- In the same vein, MINEPAT organised an interregional workshop for the Centre, South and East Regions on the dissemination of the contract-plan between the State and councils on 7 December 2021 in Ebolowa. It is a framework for collaboration to implement large scale projects and achieve other objectives at the local level based on Community Development Plans.

B: Involving the Population in the Local Development Process

252- In November and December 2021, the Far North Regional Council toured the 6 divisions of the Region to gather concerns of the people in order to prepare the strategic thrusts and priority actions of the region's development vision. In this participatory approach, regional Councillors held discussions with municipal Councillors, elites, members of civil society, traditional and religious leaders as well as people from all strata of society.

⁸⁷ Populations, traditional rulers, municipal officials, FEICOM, ELECAM, etc.

⁸⁸ Such as MINDDEVEL, MINDUH, MINAT and MINFI.

253- The West Regional Council adopted the same approach. The East Regional Council organised consultations in the Haut Nyong and Boumba-and-Ngoko Divisions to find out the aspirations of the population in order to draft the Regional Development Plan.

C: Supporting Council Action

254- From 3 to 5 December 2021, the association, UCCC organised international economic days for councils (JEICOM) in Yaounde. The event took place in the presence of about 10 Mayors from all the Regions of the country, several Presidents of regional councils as well as representatives of the International Association of Francophone Mayors and the International Association of Francophone Regions. The goal of this meeting was to mobilise decentralised cooperation by linking the RLAs with national and international bodies and investors to share good practices, create technical partnerships, build capacity at the councils and in the mid-term, expand council resources in a bid to accelerate local development. The foreign councils represented expressed interest in cultural, health, sustainable development, urban mobility and water management projects.

255- Moreover, UCCC and the African Institute of Computer Science (AICS) signed a memorandum of understanding in December 2021 to digitalise councils. This partnership shall consist in the training of council personnel, digitalisation of documents and procedures, securing of data and provision of renewable energy sources.

256- In a bid to help fast track the decentralisation and local development process through inter-municipal cooperation, the association *Initiative Education, Santé, Environnement* (INESE) organised the first biennial meetings of the National synergies of Regional and Local Authorities in Yaounde from 2 to 4 November 2021. The goal of this workshop was to promote multi-stakeholder partnerships which can facilitate the achievement of sustainable development goals starting from the local level.

257- Finally, the Special Council Support Fund for Mutual Assistance (FEICOM) financed investments such as social housing, water supply systems, public lighting, hotel facilities and commercial centres. In the year under review, the financial assistance committee of this body provided about 74 funding opportunities to 53 councils and city councils to the tune of CFAF

20,634,000,000⁸⁹. FEICOM completed the construction of the building housing its South regional branch in Ebolowa, to the tune of CFAF 500,000,000 which structures were commissioned⁹⁰. The construction of this building is part of FEICOM's policy to bring its services closer to its main partners, that is regional and municipal councils.

SECTION 3: STRENGTHENING EFFICIENCY IN THE PUBLIC SERVICE

258- In a bid to step up efficiency in the public service, the Government adopted measures to increase the number of workers and ensure their efficiency.

§1: Increasing the Number of Civil Servants

259- The Ministry of Public Service and Administrative Reform (MINFOPRA) organised administrative and special competitive examinations based on staffing needs⁹¹ identified within user administrations following the predefined annual recruitment plan which took into consideration budgetary allocations and sustainability. The statistical data of the various competitive examinations and selection tests are compiled in the table below:

Table 6: Statistics on competitive examinations and selection tests organised by MINFOPRA in 2021

Type of recruitment	Number of Orders	Number of competitive examinations	Number of positions	Number of persons recruited	Number of positions not filled	Rate of positions filled
Competitive examinations for Scholarship and training	7	11	135	135	0	100%
Direct competitive examinations	16	46	789	789	0	100%
Selection tests	1	1	130	130	0	100%
Total	24	58	1,054	1,054	0	100.00%

Source: MINFOPRA

⁸⁹About 31,502,290 Euros.

⁹⁰About 763,358.77 Euros.

⁹¹ These needs cut across a diverse range of sectors and fields, such as computer science, telecommuting, land registry, rural and agricultural production, eco-guard, civil engineering, rural engineering, public health, mining and geology, industrial techniques, post and telecommunications, tax authorities, technical and vocational education, animal husbandry and maritime fishery, animal industry, translation and interpretation, magistracy, general administration and registries.

260- Out of 1,054 successful candidates, 54% were men and 46% were women. In terms of language, 81% of the candidates were French speaking and 19% were English speaking.

§2: Improving Performance within the Public Service

261- Activities carried out were related to capacity building for State employees, updating of the State Payroll Database and sanctioning of dishonest State employees, improving the processing of salaries and pensions of State employees as well as enhancing digitalisation of the public service.

A: Capacity building for State Employees

262- On 30 June 2021 in Yaounde, MINFOPRA organised a capacity building seminar for its personnel on rules governing the organisation of administrative examinations such as reception of candidates, verification and approval of physical and electronic files, secretariat duties, methodology for marking of papers, ethical requirements and allowance scheme for participation in the organisation of the said examinations. MINFOPRA signed an agreement on 17 June 2021 with the Cameroon Red Cross to train their personnel on first aid and emergency management.

263- In September 2021, the Ministry of External Relations organised two sessions of the national seminar on peace keeping for 400 public servants⁹², to prepare them for possible recruitment in international civil service and particularly in UN peace keeping missions and other international bodies.

264- MINEPAT and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), in partnership with the World Food Programme (WFP), organised a capacity building workshop in Douala from 9 to 11 November 2021 for about 15 State employees, that is, Experts in planning, Cartographers and Economists on the production of geo-spatial data for a better participative development-oriented planning. The goal was to raise awareness on the consideration of data from geographic information systems in the designing and planning of sector development policies and to make it a tool to facilitate decision making and territorial intelligence.

⁹² Diplomats, Judicial and Legal Officers, Defence and Security Forces, Penitentiary Administration personnel...

265- The same Ministry organised sessions in November 2021 in Douala, Yaounde and Bamenda to disseminate the NDS30. Several administrative authorities from the Littoral, Centre and North West Regions respectively attended these sessions together with MPs, locally elected officials, stakeholders from the private sector and representatives of Civil Society Organisations. These sessions aimed to educate participants on the objectives, key considerations, guiding principles, priority projects, major reforms, strategic guidelines and monitoring and evaluation mechanisms of this document as well as the role of various stakeholders.

B: Cleaning up the State Payroll Database and Sanctioning of Dishonest State Employees

266- The operation to update the State Payroll and State Employee data base continued in 2021. Among activities carried out are a training session for officials in charge of human resources management in public administrations on the use of the application “mapping of job positions”⁹³ held from 30 March to 8 April 2021; sessions to validate the organisational charts of Public administrations held from 15 November to 1 December 2021; and the transmission to MINFOPRA of progress reports by updating committees of 13 administrations.

267- In addition, MINFOPRA initiated 1 700 disciplinary procedures against dishonest State employees and imposed 510 disciplinary sanctions. To this effect, through 5 Orders signed on 21 May 2021, MINFOPRA dismissed and laid off about 493 civil servants and State Employees governed by the Labour Code. They included price, weight and measure controllers; contract teachers; government contract officers; contract computer experts, government contract employees; contract State registered nurses; and contract computer engineering officers. These sanctions were adopted as part of the litigation phase of the operation for the Physical Head Count of State Personnel (COPPE).

268- In an open letter addressed to employees and users of the public service during the celebration of the 26th edition of the African Public Service Day, MINFOPRA indicated that 7,622 State employees were absent without leave and were asked to justify such absence.

⁹³ The following were in attendance, 85 persons representing 40 ministries, of which 20 Sub-directors in charge of personnel and salaries, and 23 SIGIPES Unit Heads.

C: Improving the Processing of Salaries and Pensions of State Employees

269- MINFI drafted a practical guide for the processing of salaries and pensions to facilitate calculation and payment of salaries of State employees in active service and pensions for retirees. This pedagogic document which is drafted in English and French provides information on contentious and non-contentious proceedings, techniques for updating the payroll and salary processing practices.

270- In November 2021 in Yaounde, MINFI also organised a national seminar on the harmonisation and securing of documents relating to pension and family allowances⁹⁴, for finance Controllers, regional Delegates and other administrative authorities.

271- Similarly, in October 2021, MINFI launched the automation in the production of the Statements of Amounts Owed (ESD) by instituting an application called ESD-SOFT. This application's aim is to relieve and improve the liquidation of salary arrears, allowances, benefits, bonuses, advancements, reclassifications, payment of salary arrears and family allowances not generated automatically by the ANTILOPE application.

D: Enhancing Digitalisation of the Public Service

272- During the annual conference of authorities of the central and devolved services as well as bodies under the supervision of MINFOPRA which held in Yaounde on 15 January 2021 under the theme *Digitalisation of administrative procedures at MINFOPRA within a critical health context*, the Minister of Public Service and Administrative Reform encouraged all his staff to make use of digitalisation to achieve their objectives and optimise services offered to users. Service offer was therefore reconsidered taking into account the restriction of physical contact and movement.

273- During the Cameroon-Korea (South) Forum dedicated to the public service which held in Yaounde on 26 November 2021 under the theme *Digital Governance for Administrative Reform*, 3 digital campuses were created at ENAM, the Advanced Institute of Public Management (ISMP) and the National Advanced School of Posts, Telecommunications and In-

⁹⁴ Old-age, incapacity and survivor pensions, death benefits, etc.

formation and Communication Technologies (SUP'PTIC) with the support of the Korea International Cooperation Agency⁹⁵. The ultimate objective is to train 4000 youths each year in digital administration and as such equip Cameroon State Employees with e-governance techniques and guarantee the progressive switch towards a digital public service.

SECTION 4: COLLABORATION BETWEEN POLITICAL STAKEHOLDERS

274- Participation in democratic life was demonstrated through the vibrancy of the parliament, collaboration between MPs and civil society and capacity building of MPs.

§1: Vibrancy of the Parliament

275- In addition to traditional activities of adopting laws and controlling Government's action, the Senate and the National Assembly, during parliamentary sessions, organised several dialogue sessions with members of Government on a wide range of issues such as land reform, military justice, road safety and the strategic, normative and institutional framework for the promotion and protection of Human Rights in Cameroon.

§2: Collaboration between MPs and Civil Society

276- On 22 April 2021, MPs and civil society stateholders who are members of the National Platform of Civil Society Organizations in Cameroon (PLANOSCAM) held a consultation meeting in Yaounde to define the structure of a platform for dialogue which will allow civil society to better participate in the management of public affairs by having better control and effective evaluation of public action.

§3: Capacity Building of MPs

277- On 6 April 2021, the Cameroon branch of the International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace organised a capacity building seminar for its members on the promotion of peace to make them true peace ambassadors of the community. Principles on the protection of the family, altruism, inter-religious cooperation, priority to the human being and dialogue were highlighted during this seminar.

⁹⁵ To the tune of CFAF 4,000,000,000 (about 6, 106, 870. 23 Euros) for the construction and equipment of these digital campuses.

278- The Cameroon National Chapter of the African Parliamentarians' Network on Development Evaluation, with the support of the AfDB, UN-Women and UNICEF, organised a capacity building seminar on 25 November 2021 in Yaounde for MPs on the evaluation of Government action under the theme "*Development Evaluation Effort as part of the Bid to Modernize Government Action*". The objective of the seminar was to enhance MPs' knowledge on modern public policy evaluation mechanisms implemented by the Government to ensure the sustainable and equitable development of the country. This training aligns directly with initiatives such as the Colombo Declaration on the responsibilities of Parliamentarians in the evaluation of public policies and the Global Parliamentarians Forum for evaluation which aims at the integration of evaluation methods at national level, to which Cameroon has adhered.

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279- In conclusion, the guarantee of the right to participate in the management of public affairs was reflected for the most part through the organisation of partial regional elections, authorisation of new political parties, adoption of new regulatory instruments relating to decentralisation, the effective setting up of regional councils, taking office by Public Independent Conciliators, significant increase in the general decentralisation fund, increase in staff numbers in the public service and capacity building of State employees as well as participation in democratic life within parliament.

CONCLUSION OF PART ONE

280- In a nutshell, progress was made by the Government in the promotion and protection of civil and political rights.

281- With regard to the right to physical and moral integrity and the right to liberty, the effective establishment of the national mechanism for the prevention of torture, the fight against trafficking in and smuggling of persons, awareness-raising and punishment of authorities in charge of applying the law can be mentioned as steps taken. The protection of road users was also ensured through measures including road safety campaigns.

282- The right to fair trial was guaranteed through the implementation of procedural and institutional standards.

283- Access to reliable and secure information, as well as the protection of users of electronic communication services, was ensured by a multiplicity of information sources and regulatory activities. Persons accused of violation of the right to privacy were prosecuted before competent courts and punished.

284- The effective establishment of Regional Councils and Public Independent Conciliators, as well as the substantial increase in the General Decentralisation Grant, were some of Government's efforts to strengthen the right to participate in the management of public affairs.

285- However, more effort is needed regarding Internet access, punishment for the illegal use of public force and handling judicial proceedings in a timely manner.

PART TWO

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

INTRODUCTION OF PART TWO

286- Economic, social and cultural rights were affected by the multifaceted challenges which the State faced in 2021. These included security crises in some regions of the country, the Covid-19 pandemic, increase in maritime freight, inflation in the prices of basic commodities and climate change.

287- Despite these challenges, the State continued, as much as possible, to guarantee all these rights in order to ensure the full development of persons under its jurisdiction.

288- This part which focuses on efforts made by the Government and the challenges it encountered in relation to this category of rights is structured as follows:

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

CHAPTER

1

RIGHT TO EDUCATION

289- In 2021, despite various constraints, Government worked actively to guarantee the right to higher, secondary and basic education.

SECTION 1: REALISATION OF THE RIGHT TO BASIC EDUCATION

290- The Government developed resilience in the educative system, fostered access to education and organised official examinations. Moreover, staff numbers increased and the fight against illegal schools was intensified.

§1: Resilience of the System in the Face of Crises

291- Various measures continued to be implemented in 2021 to face the crises. Such measures included a normative framework of school time or hybrid learning.

292- Thus, Article 2 (1) of Joint Order No. 78/B1/1464/MINEDUB/MINESEC of 25 August 2021, fixing the calendar of the 2021/2022 school year in the Republic of Cameroon, states that *due to the Covid-19 Pandemic and other types of humanitarian emergencies reigning in Cameroon, teaching/learning activities will be carried-out through face-to-face or through distance learning as the case may be*. Paragraph 3 of the same Article gives the 3 modalities for distance learning which are internet, radio and television.

293- In addition, the management of school time was addressed by the above-mentioned Joint Order in Articles 7, 8, 9 and 11. As a result, classes operated on a full-time basis and on a two-shift system.

294- Under this Order, for classes operating on a full-time basis, teaching/learning activities began at 7:30 am and ended at 2:30 pm for all levels 1, 2 and 3 pupils with 2 breaks of 30 minutes each. Co-curricular activities were carried out on Wednesday afternoons from 12:30pm to 3:00 pm.

295- For classes operating on a two-shift system, teaching/learning activities began at 7:30am and ended at 12:30pm for learners of the morning shift. Classes for the afternoon shift began at 1:00pm and ended at 5:30pm, from Mondays to Fridays. On Saturday mornings, classes ran from 7:30am to 12:30pm.

§2: Access to Basic Education

296- To meet education demand and strengthen education supply, several actions were implemented.

A: Strengthening Education Supply

297- Infrastructure were developed while teaching material and school manuals were distributed. In addition to performance-based grants awarded to some schools, the *“School and Mother Tongue”* Project continued.

1) Development of School Infrastructure and Creation of New Schools

298- During the year under review, 2,766 classrooms, 120 latrine blocks, and 42 fences were built. Moreover, 96 Government primary schools were rehabilitated and 25,431 classroom desks were made. The achievements of cooperation projects (12 schools from Japanese donation and 3 schools from the pilot project to improve the quality of basic education in the context of cooperation with the World Bank) were consolidated and the development of inclusive education continued in 69 pilot schools.

299- With funds granted by the Ministry of Decentralisation and Local Development and the Ministry of Basic Education, Regional and Local Authorities carried out 3 types of projects: the construction of classrooms; rehabilitation of classrooms; and fencing of classrooms for security. For example, the Bertoua 1 Council rehabilitated a block of 2 classrooms and completed the construction of the Mokolo Sembe Practicing Primary School including its fence. The Council donated a block of 2 classrooms and an administrative block to the Bango Government Primary School, and 1 block of 2 classrooms to the Mokolo 2 Government Bilingual Primary School. Furthermore, a block of 2 classrooms was constructed at the Nkolbikon 3 Government Primary School and the construction of a block of classrooms was being completed at the Mokolo 4 Government Primary School.

300- Moreover, the buildings of the Yokadouma Practicing Primary School which were destroyed by heavy rains in 2016, were renovated by the Council of the locality and commissioned on 11 June 2021.

301- A total of 11 Government schools were set up in 2021, that is, 9 primary and 3 nursery schools.

2) Award of Performance-Based Grants

302- During the year under review, 1,000 schools received performance-based financing through the Cameroon Education Reform Support Project (PAREC). Beneficiary schools in the East (300), Adamawa (300), North (200) and Far North (200) Regions received CFAF 800,000⁹⁶ each.

3) Supply of Teaching Material and School Manual

303- School books, including, inter alia, 687,994 Science and Technology Textbooks and 81,917 Computer Science Textbooks were distributed by MINEDUB in priority education zones. Within the framework of cooperation between Cameroon and China, teaching material including hundreds of packets of notebooks, erasers, rulers, boxes of pens, pencils, boxes of slates and school backpacks, were offered to the students of the *Complex Scolaire du Plateau Atemengue* (Yaounde)) on 17 September 2021 by the Beijing Urban construction Group.

4) Continuation of the “School and Mother Tongue” Project.

304- In Douala, the *Duala* mother tongue was taught in 5 pilot schools of the “School and Mother Tongue” project (Elan), namely the Bonamikan (Douala 4), New Deido Group I (Douala 1), Bépanda (Douala 1), Pk 17 (Douala 5) Government Primary Schools.

B: Education Demand

305- From a general point of view, education demand was high, both at the nursery and primary education levels.

306- At the nursery school level, during the 2020-2021 school year, 164,219 pupils, including 81,600 girls and 82,619 boys, were attending Government nursery schools. The North West Region had the smallest number of pupils with 2,327, while the West Region had the largest with 36,082 pupils.

307- At the primary education level, there were 3,369,903 pupils in Government schools, that is, 1,562,022 girls and 1,807,881 boys. Due to the security crisis, the North West Region registered the smallest number of pupils with 18,317, while the Far North Region had the largest number with 919,835 pupils.

⁹⁶ About 1,221. 4 Euros.

§3: Increasing the Number of Teachers and Fighting Illegal Schools

308- Staff numbers were increased with the recruitment of 3,099 new Teachers: 1,985 women and 1,114 men.

309- Concerning the management of illegal schools, 176 private nursery and primary schools were closed, including 21 for forgery in the Centre (1), West (3) and Littoral (17) Regions, 155 for lack of legal documents establishing them, that is, 71 in the Littoral Region (40 in Douala), 42 in the Centre and 42 in the West Region (10 in Dschang).

§4: Results of Official Examinations

310- Official examinations, namely *Certificat d'Etude Primaire (CEP)*, First School Leaving Certificate (FSLC) and Common entrance, were normally held in 2021 and results varied. In addition, results of examinations in Higher Teachers Training Colleges (HTTC) were published.

311- Some 326,653 candidates registered for the 2021 *CEP* session. Out of the 319,237 who effectively sat for the exam, 253,503 passed (girls: 119,510; boys: 133,993), representing a success rate of 79.36%. The South West Region had the highest success rate with 92.21%, while the Far North had the lowest with 58.63%.

312- Concerning the FSLC, 112,435 candidates registered. Out of the 111,215 who sat for the exam, 104,727 passed (girls: 54,514; boys: 50,213), for a success rate of 42%. The Centre Region had the highest success rate with 99.33% while the Far North Region had the lowest.

313- With regard to the Common Entrance, 98,704 candidates registered, 97,339 effectively sat for the exam and 88,881 passed (girls: 46,088; boys: 42,793), representing a success rate of 86.27%. The highest success rate of 99.11% was registered in the Centre Region, while the Far North Region came last with 72.15%.

314- Concerning examinations in HTTC, 8,303 candidates registered for the Teacher's Grade I Certificate (CAPIEMP) in 2021. Out of the 8,204 candidates who actually sat for the exam, 7,931 passed, that is, a success rate of 96.67%. The South Region registered a 100% success rate. Results in the said exam are presented in the table below:

Table 1: Statistics on Results of the Teacher's Grade I Certificate for the 2021 Session

REGION	REGISTERED			SAT			PASSED			SUCCESS RATE (%)		
	G	B	T	G	B	T	G	B	T	G	B	T
Adamawa	282	256	538	280	253	533	275	243	518	98.21	96.05	97.19
Centre	1,302	267	1,569	1,278	251	1,529	1,200	231	1,431	93.90	92.03	93.59
East	215	89	304	215	87	302	210	75	285	97.67	86.21	94.37
Far North	579	991	1,570	574	985	1,559	559	956	1,515	97.39	97.06	97.18
Littoral	595	124	719	587	120	707	536	105	641	91.31	87.50	90.66
North	342	495	837	339	493	832	336	478	814	99.12	96.96	97.84
North West	658	132	790	653	129	782	648	128	776	99.23	99.22	99.23
West	924	127	1,051	920	125	1,045	915	123	1,038	99.46	98.40	99.33
South	155	57	212	154	56	210	154	56	210	100.00	100.00	100.00
South West	614	99	713	607	98	705	606	97	703	99.84	98.98	99.72
TOTAL	5,666	2,637	8,303	5,607	2,597	8,204	5,439	2,492	7,931	97.00	95.96	96.67

Source: MINESEC

SECTION 2: REALISATION OF THE RIGHT TO SECONDARY EDUCATION

315- The Government continued to guarantee access to secondary education in 2021. Inclusive education and the fight against illegal schools continued, as well as the rational management of the number of students. All these measures made it possible to obtain excellent results in official examinations.

§1: Access to Secondary Education

316- In order to satisfy an ever-increasing demand, the improvement of secondary education supply continued, as well as the implementation of incentive measures.

A: Secondary Education Supply

317- For secondary education, there were 4,309 schools (2,790 Government schools and 1,519 private schools) in 2021, as against 4,204 (2,764 Government schools and 1,440 private schools) in 2020; that is an increase of 105 schools.

B: Incentives for Education

318- Scholarships were granted to 8,000 students. These were academic excellence scholarships amounting to CFAF 61,880,000⁹⁷, scholarships for girls studying scientific and technical subjects for an amount of CFAF 10,780,000⁹⁸, and scholarships for students living with disabilities to the tune of CFAF 7,340,000⁹⁹.

C: Secondary Education Demand

319- The number of students at the national level was 1,918,924 (895,996 girls and 1,022,928 boys) during the 2020-2021 school year against 1,866,583 in 2019-2020, representing an increase of 52,341 students. The Centre Region registered the highest number with 500,939 students, and the North West Region registered the lowest with 46,035 students. Statistics on the number of students is displayed in the table below:

Table 2: Number of Students in Government and Private Schools by Gender and Region

REGION	2020-2021			2019-2020		
	Girls	Boys	Total	Girls	Boys	Total (%)
Adamawa	30,831	46,363	77,194	29,162	44,872	74,034
Centre	251,508	249,431	500,939	244,478	249,174	493,652
East	37,761	46,683	84,444	36,264	45,043	81,307
Far North	71,930	143,565	215,495	70,674	144,454	215,128
Littoral	197,336	189,835	387,171	196,953	188,416	385,369
North	47,534	96,072	143,606	46,428	94,720	141,148
North West	25,653	20,382	46,035	10,437	8,872	19,309
West	157,810	154,847	312,657	159,734	157,572	317,306
South	39,587	43,382	82,969	37,648	42,416	80,064
South West	36,046	32,368	68,414	31,867	27,399	59,266
National	895,996	1,022,928	1,918,924	863,645	1,002,938	1,866,583

Source: MINESEC

§2: Rational Management of Students

320- Concerning the management of students, Article 14 of the above-mentioned MINEDUB/MINESEC Joint Order of 25 August 2021 provides that class enrolments should not be more than 60 pupils/students.

⁹⁷ About 94,473.28 Euros.

⁹⁸ About 16,458.02 Euros.

⁹⁹ About 11, 206.11 Euros.

321- With regard to increasing the number of Teachers, a batch of 474 Teachers who graduated from the Ebolowa Higher Technical Teacher Training College on 27 August 2021, was put at the disposal of the Ministry of Secondary Education to be deployed in various schools. The said batch included inter alia, 221 holders of the Under-graduate Diploma for Teachers of Technical Education (DIPET I), 186 holders of the Post-graduate Diploma for Teachers of Technical Education (DIPET II) and 62 holders of the School, University and Career Counsellor Diploma (DIPCO).

322- Moreover, 238 graduates trained at the National Institute of Youth and Sports of Cameroon received their end-of-training certificates.

323- A total of 6,780 new qualified Teachers were recruited in 2021, namely 2,214 college Teachers, 3,174 high school Teachers, 791 contract Teachers from Technical Teacher Training Colleges (TTTC) and 601 Teachers for whom were granted contracts.

§3: Continuation of Inclusive Education and Fight against Illegal Schools

324- Inclusive education continued and the fight against illegal schools was intensified.

A: Continuation of Inclusive Education

325- The main measures taken in the implementation of the gender approach were related to the promotion of *clean toilets* through the provision of separate toilets for boys and girls in schools.

326- Within the framework of the UNESCO, UNAIDS, MINSANTE and MINESEC partnership, a workshop on the theme “Theory of change-Education Plus initiative” was held in Douala from 1 to 4 June 2021. The said workshop aimed at identifying strategies to maintain girls in school right to High School at least, so that they can learn as much as possible and acquire knowledge to protect themselves against HIV.

B: Combating Illegal Schools

327- For the 2021/2022 school year and pursuant to Order No. 188/21/MINESEC/SEESSEN/SG/DAJ/DESG/DESTP/DEN/BNCEP of 29 July 2021 to close some private schools for violating the legal provisions

relating to the setting-up of schools, 106 illegal schools were closed in 6 regions, that is 58 in the Littoral, 28 in the Centre, 9 in the West, 7 in the East, 2 in the North and 2 in the South Regions.

§4: Results in Official Examinations

328- The Government organised official examinations and published the results for general and technical education, as well as for Teacher Training Colleges.

A: General Education

329- In 2021, 3,167 candidates registered for the bilingual BEPC Session. Out of the 3,142 who sat for the exam, 2,814 passed, representing a success rate of 89.56%. The North West Region had the highest success rate with 100%. These results are presented in the table below:

Table 3: Bilingual BEPC Results, 2021 Session

REGION	REGISTERED			SAT			PASSED			SUCCESS RATE (%)		
	G (Girls)	B (Boys)	T (Total)	G	B	T	G	B	T	G	B	T
Adamawa	155	99	254	155	99	254	143	96	239	92.26	96.97	94.09
Centre	489	283	772	487	282	769	458	273	731	94.05	96.81	95.06
East	151	116	267	150	116	266	141	106	247	94.00	91.38	92.86
Far North	43	57	100	42	57	99	24	37	61	57.14	64.91	61.62
Littoral	308	192	500	305	192	497	302	190	492	99.02	98.96	98.99
North	217	189	406	215	186	401	135	123	258	62.79	66.13	64.34
North West	27	12	39	27	12	39	27	12	39	100.00	100.00	100.00
West	313	189	502	305	188	493	279	174	453	91.48	92.55	91.89
South	175	82	257	174	82	256	164	72	236	94.25	87.80	92.19
South West	44	26	70	44	24	68	38	20	58	86.36	83.33	85.29
TOTAL	1,922	1,245	3,167	1,904	1,238	3,142	1,711	1,103	2,814	89.86	89.10	89.56

Source: MINESEC

330- Concerning the BEPC Ordinaire for the 2021 session, 215,287 candidates registered. Some 212,284 sat for the exam in the 10 regions and 152,931 passed, representing a success rate of 72.04%. The best performance was recorded in the Littoral Region, with a success rate of 87.11%.

331- These results per region and gender are indicated in the following table:

Table 4: Ordinary BEPC Results for 2021 Session

REGION	REGISTERED			SAT			PASSED			SUCCESS RATE (%)		
	G	B	T	G	B	T	G	B	T	G	B	T
Adamawa	3,818	5,487	9,305	3,767	5,366	9,133	2,466	3,652	6,118	65.46	68.06	66.99
Centre	29,874	25,545	55,419	29,442	25,149	54,591	24,565	21,159	45,724	83.44	84.13	83.76
East	4,396	5,028	9,424	4,306	4,911	9,217	2,954	3,438	6,392	68.60	70.01	69.35
Far North	12,529	23,172	35,701	12,366	22,827	35,193	4,780	11,011	15,791	38.65	48.24	44.87
Littoral	21,595	18,664	40,259	21,387	18,410	39,797	18,624	16,044	34,668	87.08	87.15	87.11
North	7,490	14,137	21,627	7,399	13,946	21,345	3,479	7,775	11,254	47.02	55.75	52.72
North West	59	39	98	59	37	96	44	33	77	74.58	89.19	80.21
West	19,646	14,473	34,119	19,446	14,320	33,766	14,715	10,926	25,641	75.67	76.30	75.94
South	4,786	4,199	8,985	4,688	4,116	8,804	3,665	3,362	7,027	78.18	81.68	79.82
South West	204	146	350	199	143	342	135	104	239	67.84	72.73	69.88
TOTAL	104,397	110,890	215,287	103,059	109,225	212,284	75,427	77,504	152,931	73.19	70.96	72.04

Source: MINESEC

332- Some 124,776 candidates registered for the 2021 *Probatoire littéraire* Session in the 10 regions. Out of the 122,600 who sat for the exam, 65,801 passed, representing a success rate of 53.67%. The North West Region obtained the best performance with 65.74%. These results are presented in the following table:

Table 5: *Probatoire littéraire* Results for 2021

REGION	REGISTERED			SAT			PASSED			SUCCESS RATE (%)		
	G	B	T	G	B	T	G	B	T	G	B	T
Adamawa	2,585	3,319	5,904	2,552	3,244	5,796	1,336	1,572	2,908	52.35	48.46	50.17
Centre	23,792	16,382	40,174	23,369	15,964	39,333	14,826	8,957	23,783	63.44	56.11	60.47
East	3,176	3,114	6,290	3,119	3,017	6,136	1,459	1,368	2,827	46.78	45.34	46.07
Far North	6,634	11,828	18,462	6,571	11,629	18,200	2,630	4,766	7,396	40.02	40.98	40.64
Littoral	13,491	7,772	21,263	13,297	7,608	20,905	8,523	4,248	12,771	64.10	55.84	61.09
North	4,172	7,237	11,409	4,132	7,118	11,250	1,843	3,044	4,887	44.60	42.76	43.44
North West	82	30	112	80	28	108	58	13	71	72.50	46.43	65.74
West	9,056	4,867	13,923	8,971	4,791	13,762	5,376	2,356	7,732	59.93	49.18	56.18
South	3,852	3,126	6,978	3,795	3,058	6,853	1,843	1,450	3,293	48.56	47.42	48.05
South West	170	91	261	169	88	257	89	44	133	52.66	50.00	51.75
TOTAL	67,010	57,766	124,776	66,055	56,545	122,600	37,983	27,818	65,801	57.50	49.20	53.67

Source: MINESEC

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333- With regard to the *Probatoire scientifique*, 111,144 candidates registered, 109,611 sat for the exam and 47,300 passed, representing a success rate of 43.15%. The Centre Region came first with a 49.91% success rate. These results per region and gender are presented in the table below:

Table 6: Probatoire Scientifique Results for 2021

REGION	REGISTERED			SAT			PASSED			SUCCESS RATE (%)		
	G	B	T	G	B	T	G	B	T	G	B	T
Adamawa	881	2,182	3,063	868	2,123	2,991	435	913	1,348	50.12	43.01	45.07
Centre	13,818	16,607	30,425	13,618	16,308	29,926	7,097	7,840	14,937	52.11	48.07	49.91
East	1,328	2,053	3,381	1,310	2,013	3,323	596	743	1,339	45.50	36.91	40.29
Far North	1,382	8,470	9,852	1,365	8,326	9,691	388	2,109	2,497	28.42	25.33	25.77
Littoral	15,728	14,426	30,154	15,588	14,207	29,795	7,392	6,726	14,118	47.42	47.34	47.38
North	1,078	4,448	5,526	1,066	4,367	5,433	425	1,310	1,735	39.87	30.00	31.93
North West	64	47	111	62	47	109	26	19	45	41.94	40.43	41.28
West	13,496	11,196	24,692	13,401	11,063	24,464	5,414	4,597	10,011	40.40	41.55	40.92
South	1,438	2,238	3,676	1,420	2,198	3,618	461	689	1,150	32.46	31.35	31.79
South West	144	120	264	144	117	261	69	51	120	47.92	43.59	45.98
TOTAL	49,357	61,787	111,144	48,842	60,769	109,611	22,303	24,997	47,300	45.66	41.13	43.15

Source: MINESEC

334- Some 81,354 candidates registered for the GCE Ordinary Level in the 10 regions of the country for the 2021 Session. Out of the 80,238 who sat for the exam, 47,407 passed, representing a success rate of 59.08%. The Littoral Region had the highest success rate with 64.83%. These results are presented in the table below:

Table 7: GCE Ordinary Level Results for the 2021 Session

REGION	REGISTERED			SAT			PASSED			SUCCESS RATE (%)		
	G	B	T	G	B	T	G	B	T	G	B	T
Adamawa	753	666	1,419	740	660	1,400	392	369	761	52.97	55.91	54.36
Centre	11,811	8,431	20,242	11,659	8,268	19,927	7,381	5,328	12,709	63.31	64.44	63.78
East	729	523	1,252	717	520	1,237	382	307	689	53.28	59.04	55.70
Far North	438	368	806	435	362	797	191	188	379	43.91	51.93	47.55
Littoral	12,041	8,670	20,711	11,905	8,553	20,458	7,668	5,595	13,263	64.41	65.42	64.83
North	381	355	736	373	345	718	173	164	337	46.38	47.54	46.94
North West	5,458	2,929	8,387	5,405	2,873	8,278	3,170	1,745	4,915	58.65	60.74	59.37
West	5,200	3,828	9,028	5,155	3,777	8,932	3,168	2,345	5,513	61.45	62.09	61.72
South	913	643	1,556	904	635	1,539	429	340	769	47.46	53.54	49.97
South West	10,493	6,724	17,217	10,357	6,595	16,952	4,901	3,171	8,072	47.32	48.08	47.62
TOTAL	48,217	33,137	81,354	47,650	32,588	80,238	27,855	19,552	47,407	58.46	60.00	59.08

Source: MINESEC

335- Of the 55,390 candidates registered for the *GCE Advanced level* in the 10 regions, 54,414 sat for the exam and 33,705 passed. These results correspond to a success rate of 61.94%. The North West Region had the highest success rate with 66.33%. These results are illustrated in the table below:

Table 8: GCE Advanced Level Results for 2021 Session

REGION	REGISTERED			SAT			PASSED			SUCCESS RATE (%)		
	G	B	T	G	B	T	G	B	T	G	B	T
Adamawa	358	373	731	358	366	724	240	231	471	67.04	63.11	65.06
Centre	8,808	6,804	15,612	8,689	6,638	15,327	5,460	4,058	9,518	62.84	61.13	62.10
East	363	333	696	357	329	686	243	198	441	68.07	60.18	64.29
Far North	166	177	343	165	174	339	97	120	217	58.79	68.97	64.01
Littoral	8,325	6,351	14,676	8,231	6,216	14,447	5,052	3,803	8,855	61.38	61.18	61.29
North	188	155	343	187	151	338	112	92	204	59.89	60.93	60.36
North West	3,242	1,951	5,193	3,193	1,904	5,097	2,104	1,277	3,381	65.89	67.07	66.33
West	3,490	2,924	6,414	3,454	2,877	6,331	2,334	1,927	4,261	67.57	66.98	67.30
South	450	388	838	448	379	827	248	213	461	55.36	56.20	55.74
South West	6,350	4,194	10,544	6,222	4,076	10,298	3,575	2,321	5,896	57.46	56.94	57.25
TOTAL	31,740	23,650	55,390	31,304	23,110	54,414	19,465	14,240	33,705	62.18	61.62	61.94

Source: MINESEC

336- Out of the 76,525 candidates registered, 75,850 sat for the *Baccalauréat littéraire* in the 10 regions and 62,689 passed, representing a success rate of 82.65%. The South West Region had the highest success rate with 95.73%. The following table gives an overview of the results in this examination:

Table 9: Baccalauréat Littéraire Results, 2021 Session

REGION	REGISTERED			SAT			PASSED			SUCCESS RATE (%)		
	G	B	T	G	B	T	G	B	T	G	B	T
Adamawa	1,423	1,999	3,422	1,414	1,978	3,392	1,150	1,456	2,606	81.33	73.61	76.83
Centre	16,424	11,101	27,525	16,294	10,967	27,261	14,172	9,074	23,246	86.98	82.74	85.27
East	1,650	1,698	3,348	1,635	1,682	3,317	1,406	1,340	2,746	85.99	79.67	82.79
Far North	2,729	5,994	8,723	2,707	5,944	8,651	2,205	4,591	6,796	81.46	77.24	78.56
Littoral	9,933	5,342	15,275	9,846	5,288	15,134	8,232	4,154	12,386	83.61	78.56	81.84
North	2,010	3,893	5,903	2,001	3,856	5,857	1,680	2,989	4,669	83.96	77.52	79.72
North West	53	21	74	53	21	74	44	18	62	83.02	85.71	83.78
West	5,110	2,686	7,796	5,080	2,653	7,733	4,429	2,165	6,594	87.19	81.61	85.27
South	2,249	1,974	4,223	2,238	1,959	4,197	1,835	1,525	3,360	81.99	77.85	80.06
South West	143	93	236	143	91	234	136	88	224	95.10	96.70	95.73
TOTAL	41,724	34,801	76,525	41,411	34,439	75,850	35,289	27,400	62,689	85.22	79.56	82.65

Source: MINESEC

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337- The overall success rate at the *Baccalauréat scientifique* was 55.35%. The West Region ranked first with a 60.90% success rate. Results in the said examination are presented in the table below:

Table 10: Baccalauréat Scientifique Results, 2021 Session

REGION	REGISTERED			SAT			PASSED			SUCCESS RATE (%)		
	G	B	T	G	B	T	G	B	T	G	B	T
Adamawa	284	730	1,014	279	718	997	157	306	463	56.27	42.62	46.44
Centre	5,522	7,055	12,577	5,456	6,925	12,381	3,360	4,058	7,418	61.58	58.60	59.91
East	399	665	1,064	395	650	1,045	186	294	480	47.09	45.23	45.93
Far North	319	2,116	2,435	314	2,074	2,388	139	633	772	44.27	30.52	32.33
Littoral	5,455	5,740	11,195	5,403	5,650	11,053	2,937	3,266	6,203	54.36	57.81	56.12
North	301	1,351	1,652	294	1,329	1,623	132	510	642	44.90	38.37	39.56
North West	19	12	31	19	12	31	10	6	16	52.63	50.00	51.61
West	3,607	3,738	7,345	3,576	3,692	7,268	2,151	2,275	4,426	60.15	61.62	60.90
South	453	809	1,262	443	791	1,234	226	398	624	51.02	50.32	50.57
South West	51	58	109	50	55	105	30	30	60	60.00	54.55	57.14
TOTAL	16,410	22,274	38,684	16,229	21,896	38,125	9,328	11,776	21,104	57.48	53.78	55.35

Source: MINESEC

B: Results in Official Examinations in Technical Education

338- The Littoral Region registered the best performance in the *Certificat d'Aptitude Professionnelle (CAP) en Sciences et Technologies du Tertiaire (STT)*, with a success rate of 75.40%. Results of the CAP STT are presented in the table below:

Table 11: CAP STT Results, 2021 Session

REGION	REGISTERED			SAT			PASSED			SUCCESS RATE (%)		
	G	B	T	G	B	T	G	B	T	G	B	T
Adamawa	438	204	642	433	203	636	297	142	439	68.59	69.95	69.03
Centre	3,327	772	4,099	3,272	764	4,036	2,415	445	2,860	73.81	58.25	70.86
East	956	274	1,230	932	268	1,200	666	143	809	71.46	53.36	67.42
Far North	1,055	316	1,371	1,046	313	1,359	492	189	681	47.04	60.38	50.11
Littoral	1,505	434	1,939	1,490	429	1,919	1,138	309	1,447	76.38	72.03	75.40
North	822	304	1,126	815	301	1,116	408	183	591	50.06	60.80	52.96
North West	73	13	86	73	13	86	47	5	52	64.38	38.46	60.47
West	2,499	415	2,914	2,478	410	2,888	1,417	232	1,649	57.18	56.59	57.10
South	759	192	951	748	192	940	545	123	668	72.86	64.06	71.06
South West	116	24	140	114	24	138	74	11	85	64.91	45.83	61.59
TOTAL	11,550	2,948	14,498	11,401	2,917	14,318	7,499	1,782	9,281	65.77	61.09	64.82

Source: MINESEC

339- Out of the 30,421 who sat for the *CAP industriel* in 2021, 25,505 passed, representing a success rate of 83.84%. The best performance was recorded in the Centre Region, with a success rate of 88.27%. Detailed results in the said examination are presented in the table below:

Table 12: CAP Industriel Results-2021 Session

REGION	REGISTERED			SAT			PASSED			SUCCESS RATE (%)		
	G	B	T	G	B	T	G	B	T	G	B	T
Adamaoua	109	869	978	109	857	966	98	744	842	89.91	86.81	87.16
Centre	1 517	6 512	8 029	1 492	6 392	7 884	1 351	5 608	6 959	90.55	87.73	88.27
Est	283	1 422	1 705	279	1 393	1 672	245	1 130	1 375	87.81	81.12	82.24
Extrême-Nord	475	2 140	2 615	472	2 121	2 593	387	1 715	2 102	81.99	80.86	81.06
Littoral	791	3 254	4 045	776	3 189	3 965	629	2 860	3 489	81.06	89.68	87.99
Nord	350	1 862	2 212	347	1 841	2 188	252	1 416	1 668	72.62	76.91	76.23
Nord-Ouest	29	195	224	28	191	219	25	161	186	89.29	84.29	84.93
Ouest	1 475	6 777	8 252	1 449	6 714	8 163	1 259	5 366	6 625	86.89	79.92	81.16
Sud	369	1 749	2 118	360	1 720	2 080	326	1 365	1 691	90.56	79.36	81.30
Sud-Ouest	39	672	711	39	652	691	35	533	568	89.74	81.75	82.20
TOTAL	5 437	25 452	30 889	5 351	25 070	30 421	4 607	20 898	25 505	86.10	83.36	83.84

Source: MINESEC

340- Out of the 14,564 candidates who registered for the *Probatoire STT*, 14,408 effectively sat for the examination and 8,644 passed, representing a success rate of 59.99%. The Far North Region ranked first with a success rate of 68.57%. Detailed results in the said examination are presented in the following table:

Table 13: Probatoire STT Results - 2021 Session

REGION	REGISTERED			SAT			PASSED			SUCCESS RATE (%)		
	G	B	T	G	B	T	G	B	T	G	B	T
Adamawa	211	170	381	207	163	370	108	77	185	52.17	47.24	50.00
Centre	2,425	1,572	3,997	2,399	1,558	3,957	1,510	931	2,441	62.94	59.76	61.69
East	333	197	530	332	196	528	186	101	287	56.02	51.53	54.36
Far North	251	179	430	246	174	420	165	123	288	67.07	70.69	68.57
Littoral	3,432	1,737	5,169	3,408	1,710	5,118	2,082	993	3,075	61.09	58.07	60.08
North	401	251	652	400	245	645	208	134	342	52.00	54.69	53.02
West	2,198	574	2,772	2,182	565	2,747	1,348	318	1,666	61.78	56.28	60.65
South	420	213	633	414	209	623	255	105	360	61.59	50.24	57.78
TOTAL	9,671	4,893	14,564	9,588	4,820	14,408	5,862	2,782	8,644	61.14	57.72	59.99

Source: MINESEC

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341- Out of the 34,006 candidates who registered for the *Probatoire industriel*, 33,415 effectively sat for the exam and 8,560 passed, representing a success rate of 25.62%. The best performance was registered by the Littoral Region with a success rate of 31.28%. Results of the said examination are displayed in the table below:

Table 14: *Probatoire industriel* Results - 2021 Session

REGION	REGISTERED			SAT			PASSED			SUCCESS RATE (%)		
	G	B	T	G	B	T	G	B	T	G	B	T
Adamawa	107	119	226	106	118	224	58	60	118	54.72	50.85	52.68
Centre	1,396	874	2,270	1,382	861	2,243	1,017	619	1,636	73.59	71.89	72.94
East	163	117	280	162	115	277	90	60	150	55.56	52.17	54.15
Far North	91	79	170	91	75	166	58	43	101	63.74	57.33	60.84
Littoral	2,351	1,115	3,466	2,331	1,103	3,434	1,743	850	2,593	74.77	77.06	75.51
North	173	165	338	172	165	337	139	133	272	80.81	80.61	80.71
West	1,042	372	1,414	1,037	368	1,405	787	288	1,075	75.89	78.26	76.51
South	239	121	360	238	120	358	168	80	248	70.59	66.67	69.27
TOTAL	5,562	2,962	8,524	5,519	2,925	8,444	4,060	2,133	6,193	73.56	72.92	73.34

Source: MINESEC

342- Some 8,444 candidates sat for the *Baccalauréat STT* in 8 regions¹⁰⁰ and 6,193 passed, that is, a success rate of 73.34%. The North Region ranked first with a success rate of 80.71%. These results are presented in the table below:

Table 15: *Baccalauréat STT* Results - 2021 Session

REGION	REGISTERED			SAT			PASSED			SUCCESS RATE (%)		
	G	B	T	G	B	T	G	B	T	G	B	T
Adamawa	107	119	226	106	118	224	58	60	118	54.72	50.85	52.68
Centre	1,396	874	2,270	1,382	861	2,243	1,017	619	1,636	73.59	71.89	72.94
East	163	117	280	162	115	277	90	60	150	55.56	52.17	54.15
Far North	91	79	170	91	75	166	58	43	101	63.74	57.33	60.84
Littoral	2,351	1,115	3,466	2,331	1,103	3,434	1,743	850	2,593	74.77	77.06	75.51
North	173	165	338	172	165	337	139	133	272	80.81	80.61	80.71
West	1,042	372	1,414	1,037	368	1,405	787	288	1,075	75.89	78.26	76.51
South	239	121	360	238	120	358	168	80	248	70.59	66.67	69.27
TOTAL	5,562	2,962	8,524	5,519	2,925	8,444	4,060	2,133	6,193	73.56	72.92	73.34

Source: MINESEC

343- Out of the 7,965 candidates who registered for the *Baccalauréat industriel* in 8 regions¹⁰¹, 7,882 sat for the examination and 5,553

¹⁰⁰ This exam was not held in the North West and South West Regions for the 2021 Session.

¹⁰¹ This exam was not held in the North West and South West Regions for the 2021 Session.

passed, that is a success rate of 70.45%. The South West Region registered the highest success rate with 82.26%. These results are presented in the table below:

Table 16: *Baccalauréat Industriel* Results - 2021 Session

REGION	REGISTERED			SAT			PASSED			SUCCESS RATE (%)		
	G	B	T	G	B	T	G	B	T	G	B	T
Adamawa	5	180	185	5	175	180	2	101	103	40.00	57.71	57.22
Centre	242	1,684	1,926	240	1,657	1,897	181	1,082	1,263	75.42	65.30	66.58
East	18	181	199	18	179	197	7	86	93	38.89	48.04	47.21
Far North	3	198	201	3	194	197	3	110	113	100.00	56.70	57.36
Littoral	682	1,798	2,480	679	1,779	2,458	529	1,205	1,734	77.91	67.73	70.55
North	9	328	337	9	325	334	3	172	175	33.33	52.92	52.40
West	315	2,034	2,349	315	2,019	2,334	291	1,629	1,920	92.38	80.68	82.26
South	9	279	288	9	276	285	2	150	152	22.22	54.35	53.33
TOTAL	1,283	6,682	7,965	1,278	6,604	7,882	1,018	4,535	5,553	79.66	68.67	70.45

Source: MINESEC

344- With regard to the Technical and Vocational Education Examination Advanced Level, 7,988 candidates registered in 7 regions, with the effective participation of 7,832 candidates. Some 5,607 passed the examination. These results are presented in the table below:

Table 17: Technical and Vocational Education Examination Advanced Level Results, 2021 Session

REGION	REGISTERED			SAT			PASSED		
	G	B	T	G	B	T	G	B	T
Adamawa	11	3	14	11	3	14	7	1	8
Centre	702	705	1407	689	693	1282	448	491	939
Littoral	1068	900	1968	1048	884	1932	701	618	1319
North West	894	947	1841	881	927	1808	628	718	1346
West	93	258	351	92	253	345	71	224	295
South	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0
South West	1216	1190	2406	1196	1154	2350	845	855	1700
TOTAL	3985	4003	7988	3918	3914	7832	2700	2907	5607

Source: MINESEC

345- As for the Technical and Vocational Education Examination Intermediate Level, 12,774 candidates registered in 7 regions, for an effective participation of 12,591 candidates. Some 7,416 passed the examination. These results are presented in the table below:

**Table 18: Technical and Vocational Education Examination
Intermediate Level Results, 2021 Session**

REGION	REGISTERED			SAT			PASSED		
	G	B	T	G	B	T	G	B	T
Adamawa	10	11	21	10	11	21	8	5	13
Centre	711	1066	1777	702	1044	1746	496	657	1153
Littoral	1291	1923	3214	1271	1899	3170	883	1119	2002
North West	1149	1458	2607	1132	1438	2570	743	721	1464
West	122	378	500	119	376	495	92	229	321
South	10	16	26	9	16	25	7	10	17
South West	1747	2882	4629	1721	2843	4564	1059	1387	2446
TOTAL	5040	7734	12774	4964	7627	12591	3288	4128	7416

Source: MINESEC

C: Results of Examinations in Teacher Training Colleges

346- Some 2,227 candidates registered for the 2021 Session of the Teacher's Certificate of Technical Education (CAPIET). Out of the 2,209 who actually sat for the examination, 1,961 passed, corresponding to a success rate of 88, 77%. The North Region ranked first with a success rate of 98, 35 %. Results of the examination are presented in the table below.

Table 19: CAPIET Results - 2021 Session

REGION	REGISTERED			SAT			PASSED			SUCCESS RATE (%)		
	G	B	T	G	B	T	G	B	T	G	B	T
Adamawa	87	97	184	85	97	182	60	66	126	70.59	68.04	69.23
Centre	200	118	318	197	114	311	189	110	299	95.94	96.49	96.14
East	129	96	225	129	96	225	118	79	197	91.47	82.29	87.56
Far North	153	188	341	153	188	341	134	137	271	87.58	72.87	79.47
Littoral	118	80	198	118	78	196	114	72	186	96.61	92.31	94.90
North	94	120	214	93	120	213	81	84	165	87.10	70.00	77.46
North West	129	55	184	127	55	182	124	55	179	97.64	100.00	98.35
West	158	115	273	156	113	269	155	104	259	99.36	92.04	96.28
South	132	82	214	132	82	214	128	77	205	96.97	93.90	95.79
South West	59	17	76	59	17	76	57	17	74	96.61	100.00	97.37
TOTAL	1,259	968	2,227	1,249	960	2,209	1,160	801	1,961	92.87	83.44	88.77

Source: MINESEC

SECTION 3: REALISATION OF THE RIGHT TO HIGHER EDUCATION

347- With a budget of CFAF 57,545,000,000¹⁰², the Ministry of Higher Education carried out some actions to meet education demand, improve human resources, ensure the continuation of hybrid learning and obtain good results in official examinations.

§1: Continuation of Hybrid Learning

348- Concerning *e-learning*, the priority was to digitalise teachings as a response to the covid-19 pandemic in Universities, especially in the Universities of Yaounde 1, Yaounde 2 and Maroua. This system made it possible to relieve Universities or Departments with large numbers of students, while facilitating the management of the student population.

349- Lessons were put in digital formats for dissemination among students using platforms dedicated for that purpose. Thus, some Lecturers made use of University radios to lecture, as was the case in the University of Dschang where the University radio team dedicated specific hours for Lecturers to lecture. Social media was also used for distance learning. Some class *WhatsApp Groups* were created through which lecturers sent lecture notes and answered students' questions.

350- The University of Dschang equally used an open distance learning platform called *Foad (Formation à distance)*. Moreover, communication tools such as emails, fora, *chat* services, increased information sharing in the University. Videoconference tools like *zoom*, *jitsi*, *Google meet*, were also used. Some teachings and mostly thesis defences were held through videoconference.

351- In addition, virtual classes through *Google Classroom* were held by the Information and Communication Technologies Centre of the University of Yaounde I. *Google Classroom* made it possible to present lessons online on the platform.

352- Digital governance was also ensured at the University of Ngaoundere which joined the African Network Information Centre. This institution continued distance learning through a platform integrating all its schools through the access link was <http://faod.univ-ndere.cm>.

¹⁰² About 87, 854,961.83 Euros.

353- A pedagogic innovation came through the use of the “Massive open online courses” (MOOC). Within the framework of a conference held in September 2021 on the African MOOC Development Network Project, 3 Cameroonian Universities (Douala, Yaounde 1 and Ngaoundere) committed to try another teaching method in higher education, through training in content development, among other things. In order to implement the said project, the University of Douala received 25,000 Euros (about CFAF 16,300,000) for the acquisition of some documents for course content development. Thus, about 10 Lecturers of this institution were trained in digital education engineering, that is, how to design online courses.

354- In addition to distance learning, hard copies of notes were given to students who later physically attended classes at the University auditorium where the said notes were explained to them.

§2: Education Demand in Higher Education

355- In 2021, 17,843 new students¹⁰³ registered at the University of Douala. Some 28,356 students¹⁰⁴ registered at the University of Yaounde 1, which had a total of 72,380 students¹⁰⁵. The University of Maroua had 32,701 students¹⁰⁶. At the University of Ngaoundere, 7,000 new students were welcomed in 2021.

¹⁰³ Including 2,870 at the Faculty of Letters and Human Science (FLSH), 2,478 at the Faculty of Law and Political Science (FSJP), 2,394 at the Faculty of Economics and Applied Management (FSEGA), 5,572 at the Faculty of Science (FS), 209 at the Faculty of Medicine and Pharmaceutical Science (FMSP), 939 at the National Advanced School of Engineering of Douala, 692 at the Higher Technical Teacher Training College (HTTTC), 673 at the Advanced School of Economics and Commerce, 1,809 at the *Beaux-Arts Institute*, 138 at the Institute of Fisheries, 276 foreign students (from outside the Economic and Monetary Union of Central African States) were registered or on mobility at the University of Douala.

¹⁰⁴ Distributed in various faculties and institutions as follows: 11,902 at the Faculty of Arts, Letters and Human Science, 13,000 at the Faculty of Science, 1,326 at the Faculty of Education, 472 at the Teacher Training College, 595 at the National Advanced School of Engineering, 700 at the Faculty of Medicine and Biomedical Science, 97 at IUT-Bois of Mbalmayo, 357 at HTTTC of Ebolowa (Cycle 1: 198; Cycle 2: 159).

¹⁰⁵ Including 27,986 at the FLSH, 32,061 at the Faculty of Science, 3,898 at the FMSB, 2,170 at the FSE, 3,032 at ENS, 1,599 at ENSPY, 384 at IUT-Bois and 1,250 at HTTTC.

¹⁰⁶ Distributed in 7 institutions as follows: 12,609 students at the Faculty of Arts, Letters and Human Science; 1,623 at the Faculty of Mines and Oil Industries; 5,919 at the Faculty of Science; 4,390 at the Faculty of Economics and Management; 4,316 at the Faculty of Law and Political Science; 2,162 at the National Advanced School of Engineering of Maroua; and 1,682 at the Teacher Training College.

356- The updated file of the number of students at the University of Dschang revealed that the institution registered 4,409 new students in 2021, increasing the number of students for the 2020/2021 school year to 30,100 students.

357- Private higher education institutes registered 100,000 students in the 2020/2021 academic year.

358- At national level, there was a total of 592,000 students in State universities and private higher education institutes.

§3: Human Resources Management

359- New Lecturers were recruited, increasing their numbers and some Lecturers were promoted to higher grades

A: Recruitment of New Teachers

360- The second batch of special recruitment of Ph.D holders, consisted of 549 Lecturers taking the total number of Lecturers to 7,100, that is a ratio of one Lecturer to 84 students. The said recruitment improved the Lecturer/student ratio and optimised quality assurance in State universities. In addition, Communiqué No. 3/SG/PM of 13 October 2021 to authorise the opening of 573 Lecturer positions in State Universities was published.

B: Promotion of Lecturers to Higher Grades

361- From 20 to 23 December 2021, the 45th and 46th Sessions of the Advisory Committee of University Institutions were held in Yaounde. A total of 1,772 higher education Lecturers' files were reviewed by expert evaluators for promotion to higher grades. There were 1,246 files for promotion to the grade of Assistant Lecturer, 373 for promotion to the grade of Lecturer and 143 for promotion to the grade of Professor. The review of the files was ongoing at the end of the year under review.

§4: Participation in Official Examinations and Success Rates

362- Out of the 28,034 candidates who effectively sat for the *Brevet de Technicien Supérieur*, 24,031 passed, representing a success rate of 80.73% against 83.71 % in 2020. Courses on school administration, judicial assistance, general chemistry, design, fashion, e-commerce and digital marketing, building and rural road construction had the best performances.

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363- Despite multi-faceted crisis in 2021, the right to education, was guaranteed thanks to the implementation of adaptation measures which ensured continuity of public education in an acceptable manner. However, many challenges need to be overcome to sustain access to education in Cameroon. As such, the second session of the Inter-Ministerial Committee in charge of following up the implementation of the Education Management Information System (EMIS) was held in Yaounde on 10 November 2021, and brought together officials of the Ministries of Basic Education, Secondary Education, Higher Education, and Employment and Vocational Training. The EMIS will be operated based on statistics of the number of Teachers, schools, and computers, which will help the State identify priority areas to invest in.

CHAPTER 2

RIGHT TO HEALTH

364- The right to health was implemented in Cameroon in 2021 amid the continuing covid-19 pandemic for which the number of cases were nonetheless on the decrease by the end of the year. The presence of this scourge did not hamper the Government's resolve in pursuing the implementation of the Health Sector Strategy 2016-2027. Hence, measures continued to be taken to promote health, to prevent and manage diseases, improve the health of mothers, adolescents and children as well as bolstering the health system.

SECTION 1: HEALTH PROMOTION

365- In order to enable people have more control over their own health and improve same, measures were taken as regards community action for health promotion, improving the living environment, family planning, combating malnutrition and illicit and harmful substances.

§1: Community Action for Health Promotion

366- A National Strategic Plan for Community Health 2021-2025 was adopted in November 2021. The general objective of the Plan is to contribute to the reduction of morbidity and mortality with the full participation of communities. The Strategic Plan has 5 strategic axes¹⁰⁷.

367- Some of the problems with community health services before the adoption of the Plan included: low ownership of community health by other sectors, involving Regional and Local Authorities; low availability and quality of preventive, treatment and promotional services, low demand for promotional, preventive and treatment services for maternal and child health at community level; low involvement of community leaders in community mobilisation for community-based care.

368- Specific objectives of the Plan include that by 2025: Having 60% of Regional and Local Authorities effectively take over the management of basic health facilities and having fully involved in the financing and management of community health in their localities; having quality in-

¹⁰⁷ Strategic Area 1: Strengthening the institutionalisation and governance of community health interventions (1), Improving the provision of quality community health services (2), Communication for development in favour of community health (3), Monitoring and evaluation as well as operational research on community health interventions, (4) Access to quality health care, including community health care, for key and vulnerable populations taking into account gender and Human Rights (5).

puts/medicines available in at least 80% of health facilities, including with community Health workers; and empowering vulnerable groups.

369- Moreover, on 12 July 2021, the National Malaria Control Programme (NMCP), Civil Society for Malaria Elimination and *Impact Santé* launched the first NMCP – Civil Society Task Force to facilitate the participation of the community in the fight against Malaria. Furthermore, 5,170 community health workers in 69 health districts were trained and equipped.

§2: Improving the Living Environment of the Population

370- Measures were taken to improve access to portable water (See §523-533), and to improve on waste management (see §742-744) in view of promoting a healthy environment for the people.

371- Moreover, as regards Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS), with the financial support of UNICEF, the Ministry of Water Resources and Energy (MINEE) and the Ministry of Public Health (MINSANTE) organised a CLTS workshop from 26 to 28 January, 2021 in Garoua, in the North Region. It aimed at strengthening the capacity of 30 NGOs, local associations and governmental actors of the North and Far North Regions on the CLTS national strategy and its implementation guidelines.

§3: Family Planning

372- In September 2021, the 4th edition of the Survey on the availability of contraceptive methods and *“maternal health lifesaving products in service delivery Points in Cameroon”, 2020* was published by the National Institute of Statistics in collaboration with MINSANTE and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

373- As concerns routine provision of family planning services, 94% of health facilities surveyed offered at least 3 modern contraceptive methods and 76% offered at least 5. The main reason why certain contraceptive methods were not offered, was low or no client demand for the contraceptive. Overall, 43% of facilities did not experience a stock out of at least one contraceptive method and 78% of at least 3 contraceptive methods were offered on a regular basis as part of their normal services during the last 3 months before the survey.

374- Regarding cost, 37% of Health Facilities waived consultation fees related to family planning. Of the health facilities surveyed, 72% had personnel trained in family planning services and 98% of persons who were interviewed soon after receiving family planning services were of the opinion that the services were satisfactory.

375- One of the recommendations of the Survey is the development and implementation of demand generation activities to fight the low or no demand for family planning services.

§4: Combating Malnutrition

376- A “Fill the Nutrient Gap” Cameroon study, carried out in 2021, revealed that about 48% of Cameroonians cannot afford a diet that meets their nutritional requirements and only 40% of children under 6 months were exclusively breastfed following WHO recommendations and only 11% of those aged 6 to 23 months receive a minimal acceptable diet.

377- Among the recommendations of the study, are strengthening multiple micronutrient, iron and folic acid supplementation for women and adolescent girls as well as reinforcing initiatives to promote breastfeeding, as it is the basis of good nutrition for infants.

378- Statistics for 2021 on severe malnutrition was 3.8% for the Adamawa Region, 5.9% for the East Region, 4.5% for the Far North Region, and 4.8% for the North Region. As concerns chronic malnutrition, it was 34.6% for the Adamawa Region, 32.8% for the East Region and Far North Regions and 40.2% for the North Region.

§5: Combating Illicit or Harmful Substances

379- There were 1990 reported cases of substance abuse with 135 deaths (6.8%) and 2,364 cases of alcoholism with 47 deaths (2%).

380- The National Drug Control Committee organised from 21 June to 8 July 2021, activities on the fight against the illicit trafficking of drugs. It was revealed during these activities that the prevalence of drug consumption among youths is 15%.

381- The country had 19 Centres for Care, Support and Prevention of Addiction (CSAPA) in 2021.

SECTION 2: PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT OF DISEASES

382- Initiatives continued to be implemented to prevent the occurrence of communicable and non-communicable diseases as well as their treatment.

§1: Prevention of Diseases

383- Concerning preventive healthcare, Government embarked on specific actions aimed at reducing the development and severity of communicable and non-communicable diseases.

A: Communicable Diseases

384- Actions were taken including for priority communicable diseases and epidemic prone diseases.

1) Priority Communicable Diseases

385- Concerning **Malaria**, in the context of the 3rd national campaign for the distribution of Long Lasting Insecticidal Nets (LLINs), 1,003,400 LLINs were acquired for the South West Region, some 300 000 of which were distributed in 4 towns (Buea, Limbe, Tiko, Muyuka) of the 19 health districts of the Region as at 31 December 2021. Furthermore, a laboratory dedicated to malaria research was inaugurated on 26 October 2021 at the *Centre Pasteur* in Yaounde.

386- For more information on malaria prevention (see §413 and 424).

387- However, the fight against malaria was hampered by certain factors including frequent stock-outs of some inputs due to several shortcomings in the national supply chain of essential drugs.

388- Activities to commemorate the 13th World **Hepatitis** Day on 28 July 2021 included free screening and round table discussions. For instance, free screening for the pathology which is a silent killer took place from 26 to 30 July 2021 at the International Vaccination Centre in Yaounde. By 28 July, 70 persons had participated in the campaign. Some 190,810 bags of blood were tested for viral hepatitis B in the context of blood transfusion, compared to 163,313 in 2020. A total of 10,821 blood donors were declared positive for HVB, representing a positivity rate of 5.67%, slightly lower than that of 2020 (5.8%).

389- The National Strategic Plan for the fight against **HIV/AIDS** and STIs 2021-2023¹⁰⁸ was adopted in September 2021. The new Plan aims to, by 2023, reduce new infections by 60%, HIV-related mortality by 70%, improve by 50% the quality of life of people infected and/or affected by HIV and increase by 50%, the quality of governance of the national response. The Plan sets new guidelines for priority interventions including increasing antiretroviral coverage among children and adolescents; promoting self-testing as a complementary strategy to increase serological knowledge of HIV; retention in care and treatment of people living with HIV in the context of Covid 19; reducing the incidence of HIV infection among young girls aged between 15 and 24.

390- Some 2,660,738 female condoms and 33,111,351 male condoms were distributed in 2021 compared to 2,918,908 and 41,057,011 respectively in 2020. The number of persons screened for HIV in 2021 was 3,479,989 with a seropositivity rate of 2,7% compared to 2,984,346 in 2020 with a seropositivity rate of 3,3%. Of the 192,351 blood bags tested, 1,951 were HIV positive, representing an HIV seropositivity rate of 1.01%.

2) Epidemic Prone Diseases

391- Measures continued to be taken to prevent the spread of Covid-19. Hence, by Decision No.1211/D/MINSANTE/SG/DPML of 12 April 2021, a commission responsible for the release of vaccine batches was established. The Commission has as general task, to carry out formalities necessary for the release of batches of vaccines throughout the national territory. Vaccines available in the country were; Sinopharm, Astra Zeneca, Jansen and Pfizer. Despite the availability of doses of vaccines and intensified campaigns conducted to improve vaccination coverage, the percentage of the target population completely vaccinated was 4,7% (660,451 persons out of a target population of 13,944,491) at the end of the year.

392- Immunization coverage for the Penta3 vaccine (DTC-HepB-Hib3- (diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough, hepatitis, Haemophilus))¹⁰⁹ was 80.3%

¹⁰⁸ The global Covid-19 health crisis had an impact on approaches in fighting HIV/AIDS. The new Strategic Plan was developed as an extension to the 2018-2022 Plan to equip Cameroon with a national strategic reference document to accelerate the response to HIV/AIDS as well as to prepare the joint HIV and Tuberculosis funding request for the new funding model 2021-2023 of the Global Fund.

¹⁰⁹ Note should be taken of the fact that tetanus and hepatitis are not epidemic prone diseases.

(below the target of 85%), down from 81.2% in 2020 while Tetanol-diphtheria (Td2+) coverage was 73% in 2021 compared to 2020 when it was 62%. BCG vaccination coverage stood at 80.3% (this was below the target of 90%) in 2021, 3.4 % lower than in 2020 (76.9%).

393- Some 4,116 health facilities offered vaccination services, an increase of 257 compared to 2020. As part of the Covax facility, were acquired in November 2021, 4 ultra-cold chain freezers with a capacity of 827 liters each for the conservation of vaccines at -80°C.

394- Vaccination activities were hampered by factors including insufficient cold chain freezers and rumours about certain vaccines. As regards stock out of vaccines, the longest was 111 days for the BCG vaccine.

B: Non-Communicable Diseases

395- As concerns cancer, some 20,700 cases were recorded in 2020, a non-negligible number, hence awareness raising on cancer and free screening continued to be carried out in 2021. Free screening campaigns included prostate cancer at the Yaounde Central Hospital from 28 June to 1 July 2021, and free screening of gynaecological cancers at the Gynecological Endoscopic Surgery and Human Reproductive Teaching Hospital in March 2021. Furthermore, during the month of October which is dedicated to awareness raising on cancer, the cost of screening for breast cancer was reduced at the Yaounde General Hospital and an awareness raising session was organised on breast cancer at *Solidarité Chimiothérapie* (SOCHIMIO) on 20 October 2021 in Yaounde.

§2: Management of Diseases

396- The quest to improve the quality of life of the people, led the Government to persist in its efforts to provide remedies for both communicable and non-communicable diseases.

A: Communicable Diseases

397- Measures were taken to bring priority communicable diseases, neglected tropical diseases and epidemic prone diseases under control, especially with the outbreak of a number of epidemics.

1) Priority Communicable Diseases

398- With regard to **HIV/AIDS**, as at 31 December 2021, 388,358 (82.7%) out of 469,793 Persons Living with HIV (PLWHA) were on ARVs compared to 84.9% in 2020. Some 268,283 (69.1%) out of 388,358 PLWHA on ARVs had viral suppression. ARVs and other care for PLWHA including follow-up tests and medication for the prevention of opportunistic diseases continued to be free of charge. Moreover, 763 persons were trained on various topics related to the HIV/AIDS response during 25 capacity building sessions.

399- The care delivery network for persons living with HIV/AIDS was strengthened both in health facilities and in the community as the number of health facilities providing comprehensive care increased from 848 in 2018 to 4,424 in 2021 and the number of community based organisations from 101 in 2018 to 154 in 2021.

400- Relevant stakeholders were trained on the management of **malaria**. Hence, more than 3,000 health care providers were trained in correct case management and nearly 2,000 laboratory technicians trained in proper malaria diagnosis. In 2021, nearly 3,150,784 cases of malaria (representing 30% of consultation) were reported against 3,863 deaths (representing 14% of the deaths occurring in health facilities). For actions on treatment, see §427.

401- There were 22,850 new cases of all forms of **tuberculosis** in 2021 including 21.7% of the 227,333 of PLWHA on ARVs. Cases of pediatric Tuberculosis constituted 5.2% of cases

Tuberculosis continued to be treated free of charge in all 306 treatment and diagnostic centers.

2) Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs)

402- Cameroon achieved the leprosy elimination target in the year 2000 and maintained this status for over 2 decades. However, in 2021, cases of **leprosy** were reported mainly in the Adamawa, the North, North West and South West Regions after 2 decades of recess of the disease. Care is provided for the disease in district hospitals as well as in specialized centres.

3) Epidemic Prone Diseases

403- Covid-19 continued to be a major health hazard and in addition to conventional medicines used to treat it, the Government authorised 4 improved traditional medicines namely, AdsakCovid/Elixir Covid, produced by the Archbishop of Douala, Mgr **Samuel KLEDA**, Corocur powder by **Dr. Euloge YAGNIGNI**, Palubek's by **Christine BEKONO** and Soudicov Plus by **Imam MODIBO**. This was a giant step towards relieving the affected population against the devastating effects of Covid-19.

404- From the start of the pandemic to 29 December 2021, there were 109,666 confirmed cases (including 3,756 medical staff and 580 pregnant women), 1,853 deaths, and 106,108 recoveries (96.8%). In 2021 alone, there were 663 covid-19 deaths.

405- There was a **cholera** outbreak and from 29 October to 31 December 2021, 499 cases of cholera were recorded in the country, including 18 deaths, that is a fatality rate of 3.6%. The 4 active Regions for this epidemic were Littoral, South, South West and Centre, with 10 health districts affected. Response activities were carried out in the said Regions under the coordination of the Public Health Emergency Operations Centre.

406- Furthermore, a total of 31 health districts were declared to be in a **measles** epidemic¹¹⁰. Of the 31 health districts concerned, 22 (71%) led a local response. There was also a resurgence of **yellow fever** (25 health districts affected) and by November 2021, 38 infections were recorded with 8 deaths. A total of 4 circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2 (cVDPV2) were isolated in the Far North Region in the health districts of Fotokol, Goulfey and Kousseri, putting the country in a polio epidemic after the country had been declared poliomyelitis free in 2019. To stop its spread, MINSANTE carried out an investigation to monitor the rate and spread of the virus and initiated a campaign dubbed "National Immunization Days as from 7 to 9 May 2021 to strengthen immunization for children between the ages of 0-5 which brought the disease under control.

B : Non-Communicable Diseases

407- As in previous years, there were strikes by **patients with renal failure**. Among their complaints were disruption of dialysis sessions, poor

¹¹⁰ In the Far North (10), East (5), West (4), Adamawa (3), Centre (3), Littoral (2), South (2), North West (1) and South West (1) Regions.

quality of water supplied by CAMWATER used for dialysis, broken down machines and stock out of dialysis kits. These strikes included that of April 2021 at the University Teaching Hospital in Yaounde, in June 2021 and on 21 October 2021 at the Yaounde General Hospital as well as that of 5 January 2021 at the Bamenda Regional hospital.

408- To improve on the quality of care for patients with renal failure, more dialysis centres were available, new dialysis machines were bought and the water treatment system for dialysis machines was upgraded. By the end of the year, there were 13 dialysis Centres across the country¹¹¹. A great leap forward was made in the management of renal failure as the first successful **kidney transplant** in Cameroon took place at the Yaounde General Hospital on 10 November 2021.

409- Activities concerning **mental illness** included care provision at home. It is in this vein that the first phase of the campaign for the care of mentally ill patients on the streets of the city of Yaounde took place in May 2021. With the collaboration of the families of such persons, care was provided to them by staff of MINSANTE. For the second phase of the campaign, 88 patients had been treated at home between 7 August and early October 2021.

410- A total of 49,918 cumulative cases of **hypertension** with 285 deaths were identified as well as 967 incidents of **sickle cell anaemia** with 19 deaths.

SECTION 3: MATERNAL, ADOLESCENT AND CHILD HEALTH

411- Relevant human and material resources were ensured and efforts made for mothers to access care at reasonable cost.

§1: Maternal Health

412- Concerning **service provision for pregnant women**, as at June 2021, the health voucher initiative which was launched in 2014 covered 250 health facilities in the Far North, North and Adamawa Regions and had the following results: 721,363 prenatal consultations, 164,091 echographies, thousands of deliveries including 6,833 caesarean section for

¹¹¹ Centre Region (3), Littoral Region (2), East Region (1 centre with 8 machines), Far North Region (1 centre with 4 machines), West Region (2), North Region (1 centre), North West Region (1 centre with 8 machines), South Region (1 centre with 3 machines), South West Region (1).

289,722 health vouchers sold¹¹². As at 31 December 2021, the project covered 202 health facilities in 15 districts of the North Region and 28,598 (72%) of the 39,807 women targeted registered for the health voucher in the said Region. Also, by the end of August 2021, the Protestant Hospital in Ngaoundere had operated 52 out of the 100 women with obstetric fistula planned for 2021 within the context of the Agreement the said hospital signed with UNFPA in 2018.

413- Furthermore, the total number of women who attended antenatal clinic stood at 869,313 out of the 1,003,172 targeted representing 86,7%, and 54% of them received at least 3 doses of intermittent preventive treatment against malaria. The HPV (Human papillomavirus vaccine) vaccine was administered to women to prevent cervical cancer. Coverage for HPV1 was 18.2% even though the target was set at 25%.

414- As regards **reproductive health material**, within the context of the Project for the Support to Maternal, Neonatal and Child health (PASMNI), on 30 July 2021, MINSANTE received from the UNFPA, 24 varieties of nearly 3,000 reproductive health and resuscitation kits for 54 health facilities in the Adamawa, North, Far North Regions and the Centre for Public Health Emergency Operations in Yaounde. Also received, were 423 kits of inputs for emergency obstetric care to be distributed in 106 health facilities in the Adamawa, North and Far North Regions.

415- With regard to **human resources**, graduating students included those trained in midwifery, for instance 133 midwives from the *Ecole de sage femmes de Douala* on 14 November 2021.

416- The 4th edition of the Survey on the availability of contraceptive methods and *maternal health lifesaving products in service delivery Points in Cameroon, 2020* published in 2021 showed that overall, medicines for children's health and maternal health were free respectively in 33% and 22% of health facilities (that charge fees for consultations) surveyed.

§2: Adolescent Health

417- MINSANTE and UNFPA launched a month-long Adolescent Sexual Reproductive Health sensitisation Campaign in the North West and South

¹¹² The voucher is bought at CFAF 6,000 (about 9, 16 Euros) and patients can benefit from obstetric care services amounting to up to CFAF 60,000 (about 91, 06 Euros).

West Regions on 16 February 2021. The objective of the campaign was to empower adolescents with information and services on sexual and reproductive health, including family planning to protect them from sexual violence, sexually transmitted diseases and early pregnancy in a Covid-19 and humanitarian context.

418- With regard to prevention of HIV among adolescents, awareness-raising campaigns were carried out in schools and communities. In total, 257,963 adolescents and out-of-school youths benefited from HIV prevention programmes, including 36,295 young people aged 10-14 years and 221,668 aged 15-24 years, as well as 34,410 out-of-school youths.

419- Moreover, the 19th edition of the Aids Free Campaign took place from 13 to 31 August 2021 under the theme "HIV or Covid-19, you can protect yourself, stay alive". Some 600 peer educators from the 10 regions of the country were deployed on the field to educate and sensitise youths on the prevention of HIV/AIDS, sexually transmitted diseases as well as Covid-19 during the holiday period.

420- The number of adolescent reproductive health units in the Adamawa, East, Far North, North and Centre Regions stood at 22.¹¹³

421- With regard to teenage pregnancies, 3,350 pregnancies for girls between the ages of 10 and 14 and 147,410 between the ages of 15 and 19 were recorded at health facilities during first prenatal consultations.

422- The awareness of 368,521 girls and 379,024 boys was raised on HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted infections while 1,035 female condoms and 274,000 male condoms were distributed to youths. Among the 26,512 adolescents¹¹⁴ who consulted for sexually transmitted infections at health facilities, 23,929 were provided care according to required standards.

§3: Child Health

423- Initiatives as concerns **disease prevention** in children continued to be taken. Hence, during the joint National Immunisation Days against polio/ Maternal and Child Health and Nutrition Action Week (SASNIM)

¹¹³ Partners like the WHO, UNFPA, ACMS and CAMNAFAW assisted the Government in working to improve the health of adolescents.

¹¹⁴ 2,666 adolescents between 10 and 14 years and 26,512 between 15 and 19 years.

campaign, organised from 7 to 9 May 2021 in 191 health districts, 5,262,468 children aged 0-59 months received the bivalent oral poliovirus vaccine (bOPV), out of 6,042,816 targeted, representing a coverage of 87%. Moreover, children in the same age group received Vitamin A supplements and those aged 12-59 months were de-wormed with Mebendazole.

424- Also, seasonal malaria chemoprevention campaigns took place in the Far North and North Regions in July and October 2021, during which nearly 1,900,000 children aged 3 to 59 months were administered preventive treatment.

425- Regarding Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission of HIV (PMTCT), there were 5,280 health facilities providing option B+/PMTCT services, representing 87% of health facilities nationwide. The number dropped from 5,303 in 2020 due to the security crisis in some parts of the country which led to the closure of some health facilities. Of the 869,313 who attended ante natal clinic, 824,243 were screened for HIV. The number of HIV positive pregnant women who received ARVs in the context of PMTCT was 17,304 of the 19,081 identified (some 10,087 (58.3%) of them were already on ARVs at the time of pregnancy), representing 90.2% as against 80.2% in 2020.

426- Some 12,619 of 13,809 children exposed to HIV (children born in health facilities and those born outside but brought to health facility within 72 hours) were put on ARVs, that is a 91.38% coverage compared to 85.2% in 2020.

427- Treatment was provided to children for a wide variety of diseases, among which malaria, diabetes and congenital diseases. The total number of confirmed cases of malaria in children was 995,192 of whom 500,529 were treated free of charge representing 50.3%: of the 523,590 cases of uncomplicated malaria in children below 5 years, 289,202 were treated free of charge, that is 55.2% of them and out of 471,602 cases of severe malaria in children below 5 years, 211,327 were treated free of charge, representing 44.8%. Children continued to receive free treatment through the Changing Diabetes in Children Programme which is part of Novo Nordisk's "Access to Diabetes Care" strategy.

428- As regards the treatment of congenital malformation in children, measures included signing of an Agreement between MINSANTE and the Cameroon Baptist Convention Health Services (CBHS) on 25 May 2021 for the treatment of children with club foot in the context of the Cameroon Club-foot Care Project executed by CBHS which will run for 4 years.

429- Moreover, on 10 July 2021, the Presbyterian Paediatric Eye Hospital was inaugurated in Limbe to provide specialised eye care for children. This initiative is the joint effort of the Presbyterian Church in Cameroon, the Christian Blind Mission and the German Lions Club.

SECTION 4: HEALTH SYSTEM STRENGTHENING

430- The even distribution of health facilities was a priority of Government which forged ahead with the provision of health equipment and health staff. Measures were also adopted with regard to accessibility to health care.

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

431- The number of health facilities was increased, health staff trained and health equipment acquired.

A: Availability of Healthcare Facilities.

432- In an effort to ensure that health facilities are relatively evenly distributed to serve the population, Order No. 2039/MINSANTE of 25 May 2021 establishing the health map of Cameroon for the 2021-2025 period was signed. It mainly provides for minimum distances separating health facilities as well as the population that public health facilities should cover¹¹⁵.

433- Some new health infrastructure included the Ebolowa Regional Hospital Centre and Bafoussam Regional Hospital Centre which were inaugurated respectively on 3 and 11 December 2021 and were operational. The Polio Emergency Response Coordination Unit was also inaugurated in Yaounde on 26 March 2021 in view of keeping the country poliovirus-free.

¹¹⁵ As regards distance between health facilities, it is stated that public health facilities must be separated by a distance of at least 5km (art 3). In Yaounde and Douala, there must be a distance of at least 300 metres between private health facilities (art 4) and in other regions and localities, the minimum distance shall be 350 metres. Concerning the population to be covered, the Order provides that a public health facility must cover a population of 10,000 at least in regional headquarters and at least 5,000 in other localities (art.5).

434- In 2021, there were 2,674 public health facilities.

B: Human Resources

435- Improving on quantity and quality of human resources remained of cardinal importance. Thus health staff continued to be trained.

436- Students graduated from medical schools including 182 dental surgeons from the *Faculté des sciences de la santé de l'Université des Montagnes* on 29 June 2021 and the Faculty of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences University of Yaounde 1 as well 400 medical doctors from the Faculty of Medicine and Pharmaceutical Sciences of the University of Douala, Faculty of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences University of Yaounde 1 on 28 April 2021.

C: Availability of Equipment

437- A variety of equipment was purchased including ambulances, laboratory machines and cold chain equipment just to name a few.

438- As part of the measures to continue to fight against Covid-19, ambulances were acquired for the management of emergencies for health districts in rural areas, that is 10 on 27 February 2021 and 15 on 1 April 2021, through the support of the United Nations Development Programme. *In the context of the Support to the Elimination of Mother-to-Child Transmission of HIV/AIDS in the Republic of Cameroon Project*, 47 vehicles were acquired on 22 December 2021 while within the framework of the organisation of the AFCON TotalEnergies in January 2022, ambulances were acquired and distributed to regions hosting matches.

439- Furthermore, on 27 February 2021, within the framework of the second phase of the cold chain equipment acquisition project 842 equipment, some of which are powered by solar energy were jointly purchased by the State and UNICEF. The equipment was for both public and private health facilities offering vaccination services.

440- Within the framework of Cameroon-Japan cooperation, the Japanese embassy in Cameroon financed the purchasing of a high performing machine for the diagnosis of infectious diseases, *MaldiT* which was available from 29 June 2021. The machine reduces time for diagnosis. A new scanner was also acquired at the Yaounde central Hospital.

441- The capacity building of health staff included provision of health care during AFCON TotalEnergies scheduled for January 2022. It is in this vein that on 8 December 2021, 30 health staff were trained in Yaounde on interventions in case of catastrophe with the support of the Turkish Aid Agency. Furthermore, from 14-18 December 2021, MINSANTE organised a national training of stakeholders involved in health coverage for the AFCON TotalEnergies on emergency care in the context of Covid-19.

§2: Accessibility to Healthcare

442- Order No. 2039/MINSANTE of 25 May 2021 was also a measure to ensure that health facilities are not over concentrated in one area while others do not have, enabling that a wider geographical area be covered which should enhance physical accessibility.

443- Recognising the importance of employers' associations in the implementation of the Universal Health Coverage (UHC), on 26 February 2021 in Douala, the Minister of Public Health held a meeting with *Groupe ment Inter patronal du Cameroun (Cameroon Employers Organisation) (GICAM)*, *Mouvement des Entreprises du Cameroun (MECAM)* and *Entreprises du Cameroun (ECAM)* to explain the ins and outs of the UHC and get their observations as the beginning of a series of consultations for a better structuring of the universal health coverage. In spite of such initiatives, the UHC encountered a major challenge as its implementation which was supposed to start in January 2021 was postponed to the first quarter of 2022.

444- Covid-19 testing remained free for the whole of 2021.

445- Regarding accessibility to medicines, just as in preceding years, malaria treatment was free in public health facilities for pregnant women and children below 5 and insulin was free for diabetic patients less than 25 years old (§427). Furthermore, tuberculosis treatment and ARVs remained free (§428) as well as other forms of care for persons Living with HIV/ AIDS (§398).

446- Besides, a directory of approved drugs was published in August 2021, which showed that as at 2 December 2020, there were 7,974 authorised medicines in Cameroon. It contains the names of medicines, names

of manufacturers, date of authorisation and prices. It is a reference document that helps in decision making for health interventions in the pharmaceutical sector. It can be assessed at <https://dpml.cm/repertoireDesAmm/index.php>.

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447- There was a major breakthrough in medical interventions with the first successful kidney transplant in the country. There was also a quantum leap through the recognition of the role of improved traditional medicines in providing health remedies through the official authorisation of 4 of them to be used alongside conventional medicines in the treatment of Covid-19. These actions call for reflexions on a legal framework on organ transplant and improved traditional medicines. More health facilities were available and more health equipment acquired, some particularly relating to maternal and child health.

448- Once more, the universal health care system which is expected to provide quality health for all, failed to go operational. Stock-outs of some inputs and the resurgence of some epidemic prone diseases was also a challenge.

449- The slowdown of Covid-19 infections by the end of the year offers a ray of hope for 2022.

CHAPTER 3

RIGHT TO AN ADEQUATE STANDARD OF LIVING

450- Despite manifold constraints, notably due to security and health crises, increase in maritime freight and surge in prices of basic commodities, the State left no stone unturned in guaranteeing to its population the right to an adequate standard of living in its 3 dimensions, namely the right to food, the right to water and electricity and the right to decent housing.

SECTION 1: RIGHT TO FOOD

451- The main actions carried out by the State to guarantee the right to food included developing new strategic tools, fighting against food insecurity and guaranteeing availability, accessibility and acceptability of foodstuffs.

§1: Developing New Strategic Tools

452- The priority reform plan for improving the business environment in the agro-pastoral sector and the maize and cassava development plan were developed.

A: The Priority Reform Plan for Improving the Business Environment in the Agro-Pastoral Sector

453- As part of the Youth Agro-pastoral Entrepreneurship Promotion Programme, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MINADER) and the Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Animal Industries (MINEPIA) developed the priority reform plan for improving the business environment in the agro-pastoral sector. The goal of this strategic tool is to attract more private investors and increase the contribution of the agro-pastoral sector to the economy.

454- This Plan provides for the implementation of 17 reforms which include fast-tracking the ongoing land reform by laying emphasis on access for women and girls; drafting an agro-pastoral framework law; structuring professions and trades in the agro-pastoral sector; strengthening the leadership of councils in the development of the agro-pastoral sector; developing public-private partnerships for advocacy, dissemination and research in the agro-pastoral sector; promoting agricultural machinery; disseminating Cameroon standards relating to agro-pastoral products and services to guarantee competition, the health of the consumer and protection of the national market; and promoting “made in Cameroon” products.

B: Maize and Cassava Development Plan

455- Through MINADER, Government designed a maize and cassava development plan.

456- In the case of maize, this Plan has the following 7 objectives: expansion and supply of improved varieties of nutritive and stress-tolerant maize which efficiently use nutrients; fight against the spread and impact of pests, notably armyworms and maize lethal necrosis; strengthen the maize sector through capacity building of farmers and use of climate-resistant improved varieties; growth and distribution of maize with improved nutritional value; intensification of corn-based agri-food systems through crop management practices and climate-smart decision support tools; improvement of Aflasafe products, aflatoxin management systems, supply mechanisms and capacity building as well as training of a new generation of corn experts.

457- As regards Cassava, the plan seeks to improve yield from family farms, post-harvest technologies and the quality of products. It also aims to help in the spread and adoption of innovations and research results.

§2: Fight against Food Insecurity

458- The Advisory project on sustainable soil management in rural areas in Cameroon (ProSep) carried out a study on the impact of climate change on agriculture in the Adamawa and North Regions. The results of this study, which were presented in Yaounde, in January 2021, helped farmers and cattle breeders in target areas to better organise their farming calendar and make their activities more resilient to climate change.

459- In 2021, there were 38 rainy days for a rainfall of 659 millimetres of water in the Far North Region, compared to 44 days of rain for a total rainfall of 966 millimetres of water in 2020. This significant decrease made this region prone to food insecurity. However, thanks to Government's efforts¹¹⁶, agropastoral production helped avoid the spectre of food insecurity.

460- At the national level, MINADER and MINEPIA drafted a *Harmonised Framework* which is a tool for analysis and diagnosis of food secu-

¹¹⁶ Efforts put forth through the Support programme for competitiveness of farms; the project to support and develop the agricultural sector; the dairy development project, etc.

urity and the nutrition situation in the country and aims to identify risk areas and food insecure populations. The analysis done in December 2021 revealed that 85.2% of households had acceptable levels of food consumption while 14.8% of households were poorly fed. Moreover, the food safety situation was good in 22 divisions and relatively acceptable in 24 divisions. However, it was noted that the situation worsened in 12 divisions in the Far North, North West and South West Regions owing to the security crisis and poverty. Yet, no division was in a situation of emergency or famine. Thanks to these indicators, the global hunger index¹¹⁷ ranked Cameroon 74th out of 113 countries.

461- At the end of the said analysis, MINADER recommended the resumption of agropastoral activities in abandoned areas, continuous implementation of innovative agricultural practices, use of improved and resilient seeds, the choice of crops corresponding to the pedology of soils and strengthening the food industry.

§3: Guaranteeing Availability of Food Products

462- In a bid to guarantee the availability of food products, the Government intensified research, pooled efforts to develop the agropastoral sector and strengthened production capacity.

A: Intensifying Research

463- To intensify research activities, the Institute of Agricultural Research for Development (IRAD) set up new operational facilities in some production areas. These include: 2 Multipurpose Agricultural Research Stations in the Far North and South West Regions and 9 research Stations in the Adamawa, Centre, Littoral, South West, South, North and Far North Regions.

464- Moreover, as usual, IRAD carried out research in the plant, pastoral and fishery sectors, which led to the development of oil palm, pineapple and plantain value chains; the development of appropriate techniques to reduce the impact of constraints on cereal production; improvement of legume yield in various agro-ecological areas of Cameroon; production of in-vitro plantain plants and basic seeds of improved yam and cassava varieties for the North West and South West Regions; selection of rice varieties adapted to highland areas; intensification of multi-local wheat

¹¹⁷ For more information, see www.globalhungerindex.org

adaptability trials in the Adamawa Region; development of techniques and procedures of conserving meat and fishery products; improvement of the production system of small traditional ruminants through the acquisition and maintenance of genetic resources and the production of hay; increase in the production of day old chicks by the acquisition of parent breeder flock, the mixing of fodder, incubation and in-ovo sexing.

B: Pooling Efforts to Develop the Agropastoral Sector

465- On 8 June 2021, a consultation meeting took place in Yaounde between MINADER and several agencies of the United Nations System including the World Food Programme (WFP) to directly collect data from them in a bid to prepare a food security programme which takes into account vulnerable people in Cameroon.

466- Moreover, from 23 to 26 November 2021, the Small and Medium-sized Promotion Agency (APME) organised the 2nd edition of the national networking day in Yaounde under the theme *enhancing and capitalising on collaborative value chains*. This activity aimed to encourage stakeholders of the agri-food sector to adopt a culture of networking, master value chains within which they can operate, address problems of access to market and take advantage of the national and community legal frameworks to develop value chains.

467- Furthermore, as part of the implementation of its 2021-2025 strategic plan, the Agricultural Mechanization Study and Experimentation Centre (CENEEMA) signed an agreement with the Livestock Development Corporation (SODEPA) on 20 October 2021 to improve agro-pastoral production. Through this agreement, CENEEMA committed to develop sites, ranches and agro-pastoral farms for SODEPA; provide technical training to farmers; assist Regional and Local Authorities in the development of the agro-pastoral sector; design prototype machines to be given to SODEPA, ensure their maintenance and train SODEPA personnel and farmers on the use of agricultural machinery.

C: Strengthening Production Capacity

468- In a bid to guarantee the availability of foodstuffs, measures were taken to strengthen production capacity in the agricultural, pastoral and fishery sectors.

1) Strengthening Production Capacity in the Agricultural Sector

469- The Government and its partners undertook to promote local machinery, develop arable lands, construct a pilot incubation centre, finance production, produce and distribute improved seeds and enhance the capacity of State employees.

a) Promotion of Local Agricultural Machinery

470- One of the objectives of the State mentioned in the NDS30 is to modernise agriculture in Cameroon. Cognisant that this modernisation requires automation and increase in the national industrial fabric, the Government is making efforts to encourage the development of local machinery. Thus, during the 7th edition of the Yaounde International Agribusiness Exhibition (SIALY) which held in July 2021 under the theme *Agriculture and Agri-food: stakes and challenges in African free trade*, researchers in Cameroon who participated thereat presented all sorts of locally manufactured agricultural machines such as the oil press, groundnut sheller, palm nut sorting machine, threshing machine, chick plucker cassava graters, flour mill, mills for fresh provisions, costing between CFAF 250,000 and 1,500,000¹¹⁸. These machines, mainly intended for processing, in order to increase the added value of agricultural products.

471- Furthermore, in November 2021, MINPMEESA granted a subvention worth CFAF 100,000,000¹¹⁹ to 12 agro-industrial business developers from the incubation programme at the Edea National Pilot Business Nursery for the modernisation of production and processing chains, improvement of packaging, design and manufacturing of food machinery such as vegetable oil expellers, driers for fruits and vegetables.

b) Development of Agricultural Lands

472- The implementation of the agricultural dimension of the Three-Year Emergency Plan for Economic Growth (PLANUT) continued in its 3 components namely: development of hydro-agricultural areas, setting up of agro-poles and construction of water reservoirs. Concretely, the development of 13,000 hectares continued in the Logone and Chari Division; studies for the development of 13,107 hectares of fodder area in the Adamawa

¹¹⁸ About 2,290 Euros.

¹¹⁹ About 152,671 Euros.

Region and for the construction of 16 water reservoirs in the North Region continued; the contracting process to develop 15,280 hectares of fodder area in the Vina, Mbere as well as Faro and Deo Divisions was launched and 7 water reservoirs were constructed in the Far North Region.

c) Construction of a Pilot Incubation Centre

473- On 22 December 2021, a 2nd generation Pilot Incubation Centre was inaugurated at Bwadibo in the Dibombari Sub-Division, Littoral Region. This unit¹²⁰ of the Cameroon Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Mines and Crafts (CCIMA) that costs CFAF 1,500,000,000¹²¹, is a training centre for agropastoral processing trades and seeks to develop an entrepreneurial spirit with a view to creating semi-industrial production units. Thus, on the one hand, it helps to showcase the assets of the Moungo Division, which is mainly an agricultural area and on the other hand, it seeks to preserve the place of agriculture as the backbone of industrial development, in line with NDS30.

d) Financing Agricultural Production

474- On 12 October 2021, the Government signed a funding agreement of CFAF 1 16 917 500 000¹²² with the World Bank to implement the project for the valorisation of investments in the Benue Valley. Its objective is to develop and improve irrigation services in the locality concerned to optimise agricultural production and particularly rice production.

475- In a bid to revamp the rice sector, the Government signed a funding agreement with the International Fund for Agricultural Development to set up phase II of the Agricultural Sector Support Project. This project seeks to sustainably increase revenue and resilience of family farms in the Far North, North, North West and West Regions.

476- In August 2021, 46 agro-pastoral production organisations in the East Region¹²³ received financial support from the Agropastoral Council

¹²⁰ Constructed on 1 hectare, this centre comprises an administrative block, a technical block built on 1,300m², a toilet block, a potable water borehole and an electric transformer of 400Kva power. It also has a 30 seater mini bus to transport students and staff.

¹²¹ These funds were jointly mobilised by MINMINTD, MINEPAT and CCIMA.

¹²² About 178,500,000 Euros.

¹²³ About 7 in the Haut-Nyong Division, 18 in the Lom and Djerem, 8 in the Boumba and Ngoko and 13 in the Kadey Division.

Consolidation and Sustainability Programme to the tune of CFAF 240 000 000¹²⁴. The same Programme granted CFAF 1 66 000 000¹²⁵ to 29 producer organisations in the Littoral Region¹²⁶, and CFAF 400,000,000¹²⁷ to 94 organisations in the Centre Region. This support was given for activities and the modernisation of the productive apparatus of the beneficiaries.

477- MINADER also granted support to producers, particularly the most vulnerable. For example, on 12 October 2021, it granted equipment including machetes, gloves, helmets, wheelbarrows, trucks, sprayers, atomisers and fertilisers to enable 60 cocoa farmers in the South Region reconstitute surface areas devastated by fire during the dry season in February 2021.

e) Production and Distribution of Improved Seeds

478- For the 2021 seed campaign, MINADER published the list of producers¹²⁸ and production areas for maize, sorghum and cocoa seeds as well as the quantities available as shown in the table below:

Table 1: Quantity of Seed Produced per Region for the 2021 Seed Campaign

Regions	Certified Hybrid Cocoa Seeds (number of plants)	Certified Maize Seeds (in tons)	Sorghum Seeds (in tons)
Centre	Over 5,000,000	348.25	///
Littoral	1,124,000	10	///
South	202,500	37.5	///
East	659,994	12	///
West	231,000	220.8	///
South West	1,620,000	10	///
North West	77,000	138.5	///
Far North	///		124.65
North			3.1

Source: MINADER

479- In the Adamawa Region, the IRAD centre at Wakwa offered 60,000 cashew plants and 20,000 Senegal acacia plants to 20 farmers' orga-

¹²⁴ About 366,412 Euros.

¹²⁵ About 253, 435 Euros.

¹²⁶ About 7 in the Moungo Division and 12 in the Nkam Division.

¹²⁷ About 610,687 Euros.

¹²⁸ SODECAO, IRAD, GIC and Cooperatives.

nisations. The cashew tree produces cashew apple which is consumed locally and used to produce natural juices, jams, alcohol and pharmaceutical products. This institute also organised campaigns to distribute improved seeds to the population and other stakeholders of the agricultural sector across the country as follows :

- 20 tons of diverse varieties of rice¹²⁹;
- 1 ton of groundnuts (40ha of seeding);
- 500Kg of beans (20ha of seeding);
- 1.5 tons of soja (50ha of seeding);
- 10 tons of maize (450ha of seeding);
- 5 tons of rainfed and off-season sorghum (350ha of seeding).

480- At a workshop organised on 8 July 2021 during the 7th edition of the Yaounde International Agribusiness Exhibition (SIALLY), the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), a partner of MINADER presented innovations in improved seeds (cuttings, cassava, maize, yams, cocoa), plant protection and soil fertility. These innovations are based on maximising the use of different organic sources of fertiliser, minimising loss of nutrients and making proper use of available means.

f) Capacity Building of State Employees in the Agricultural Sector

481- The State and its partners continued to enhance the capacity of stakeholders in the agricultural sector, particularly State employees. In this vein, from 15 to 22 June 2021, 20 senior employees from MINADER and MINEPIA attended an online training and experience sharing session on rural development and promotion of agriculture organised by the Korean International Cooperation Agency. Participants were enlightened on the Korean agricultural system, the rural development model implemented in the country, agricultural economy, infrastructure development, design of plans of action for agricultural projects and a case study on rice production.

1) Strengthening Production Capacity in the Pastoral Sector

482- Pastoral production was increased in 2021 with the opening of the factory of the “*Compagnie Fermière Camerounaise*” a subsidiary of “So-

¹²⁹ Nerica, Nerica L56, Nerica L8 and 4, Nerica L36.

ciété Anonyme des Brasseries du Cameroun". The said factory worth CFAF 18,000,000,000¹³⁰, set up in the locality of Mbankomo, Mefou-and-Akono Division, shall facilitate the production of 40,000 tons of rice, maize and corn flour yearly, 1 12,000 hatching eggs weekly and 90,000 day-old chicks weekly for broiler breeding. It will also help to strengthen the production capacity of the local population and meet the needs of poultry farmers and other livestock breeders in terms of inputs¹³¹.

483- Regarding financing, PCP-ACEFA gave to 56 chicken and white meat producer organisations¹³² in the West Region the sum of CFAF 292,592 900¹³³, mainly for the modernisation of the productive apparatus.

484- Moreover, SODEPA concluded a 3-year partnership with the Binguela Agriculture Field School¹³⁴, to pool together human, material and financial resources to develop cattle fattening¹³⁵, disseminate innovative pastoral techniques in forest zones, mobilise partners and in the medium term, better manage flocks as regards artificial insemination and reproduction, as well as ensure the marketing and distribution of products from this collaboration.

2) Strengthening Production Capacity in the Fish Farming Sector

485- The State focused its actions inter alia on improving the quality of training and supervision of stakeholders of small-scale fishing.

486- As regards improving the quality of training, on 29 December 2021, the Limbe Nautical Arts and Fisheries Institute (LINAFLI) signed a partnership agreement with industrial fishing operators. Following the terms of this agreement, LINAFLI committed to training personnel of fishing companies while the latter have to receive LINAFLI students to carry out internship. The objective of this agreement is to improve the quality of human resources in the sector, thereby boosting productivity.

¹³⁰About 27,480,916 Euros.

¹³¹ The factory actually has a feed mill capable of producing 30 tons of food per day.

¹³² About 19 in the Menoua Division, 17 in the Haut-Nkam Division, and 20 in the Mifi and Koung-Khi Divisions.

¹³³About 446,706 Euros.

¹³⁴ On 24 June 2021.

¹³⁵ Animal rearing technique which consists in feeding cattle in closed fences using grass and plants that facilitate quick fattening.

487- As part of Government's strategy to increase fish production and implement the import-substitution policy, the Maritime Fisheries Development Fund (CDPM) trained over 300 fish farmers in 2020 and 2021 including 170 in the Littoral Region. Most persons trained were able to produce significant quantities of fresh-water fish, much of which was sold during the 2021 end of year festivities. Although those concerned faced difficulties with the supply of fish feed and their fish tanks remained small-scale, this initiative by MINEPIA contributed to reducing imports.

488- Regarding the supervision of stakeholders of small-scale fishing, the top management of CDPM held discussions on 7 and 8 December 2021 with fishers of Cape Cameroon and Manoka in the Littoral Region who are the main suppliers of crayfish in the cities of Yaounde and Douala. The aim of which was to collect information on activities such as the catch, processing and sale of small-scale fishery resources. During the discussions, poison fishing¹³⁶ practised by some persons was denounced and the main challenges encountered¹³⁷ by these fishers were stated in a bid to seek solutions to same. In addition, on 5 November 2021, 10 canoes, 28 ice boxes, a smoke house and several fishing equipment were granted to fishers and processors of fishery products through MINEPIA in the Mouanko locality, Sanaga-Maritime Division by the Regional Fisheries Commission for the Gulf of Guinea (COREP), a specialised institution of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS).

§4: Guaranteeing Accessibility of Food Products

489- To guarantee accessibility of food products, Government launched a crusade against inflation and high cost of living. Moreover, facilities and spaces for the distribution of food products were increased and support was granted to economic stakeholders distributing these products.

A: Fight against Inflation of Prices of Basic Commodities and High Cost of Living

490- Given the inflationary situation, the Government adopted a plethora of measures to supply markets and reduce import.

¹³⁶ Using a toxic product called Thiodan 35 (Galamine) which knocks the fish out.

¹³⁷ The intrusion by industrial fishermen into areas reserved for small-scale fishing, the use of illicit fishing equipment by industrial fishermen, the destruction of mangrove which is the fish habitat and breeding grounds, the inconsistent tides, the lack of ice to preserve fishing products, etc.

1) State of Inflation

491- The cost of basic commodities increased by 2.1% averagely¹³⁸ in the Cameroonian markets especially in the 2nd half of 2021. According to the National Institute of Statistics¹³⁹, this inflation was mainly due to the negative effects of the Covid-19 pandemic which reduced movement at the borders, the exorbitant increase in the cost of maritime freight which negatively affected supply chains, the practice of speculation by retail vendors, insecurity in some regions of the country, poor supply of agricultural products due to climate change and the impact of rising prices around the world. Although the inflation remained below the threshold of 3% fixed in the CEMAC zone, it led to challenges in the supply of foodstuff such as rice, wheat flour, fish, broiler chickens and refined vegetable oils with a consequence being huge pressure on households.

492- Discussions were held on the inflationary situation during the Cabinet meeting of 4 November 2021. During the meeting, the Minister of Trade, Minister of Livestock, Fisheries and Animal Industries as well as the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development made a presentation on *the strategy to supply the national market with consumer goods ahead of the end of year festivities*¹⁴⁰ as well as measures taken to implement the import-substitution policy ordered by the Head of State.

a) Strategies to Supply Markets

493- The Minister of Trade held several consultations with various stakeholders¹⁴¹ and organised controls in markets¹⁴². The control strategy focused

¹³⁸ See. Press release by the Minister of Trade on 24 December 2021.

¹³⁹ See. Note published on 1 September 2021.

¹⁴⁰ This concerns precautionary measures aimed at preventing shortages and stabilising prices (implementation of means of importing essential goods; organisation of promotional sales campaigns in collaboration with municipal councils; market control operations etc.

¹⁴¹ This is the case of the meeting which took place on 22 September 2021 between MINCOMMERCE, managers of maritime companies operating in Cameroon, economic operators and public administrations on the import of consumer goods. It is also the case with the meeting which took place on 28 December 2021 between MINCOMMERCE and about 20 presidents of trade unions and markets in the Mfoundi Division during which it was agreed to resort to grouped purchases from producers and importers to reduce costs upstream and prevent the consumer from paying the high price downstream.

¹⁴² The MINCOMMERCE National Fraud Control and Repression Brigade carried out 21,916 controls which led to 6,388 sanctions, 47 seals and 71,076 products seized for non-compliance and sale of prohibited products.

on behaviour monitoring, reporting speculation and ensuring price transparency on the market. Moreover, by Decision of the Minister of Finance of 16 November 2021, the Government granted an exceptional reduction of 80% of maritime freight¹⁴³ to be included in the calculation of custom duties in order to alleviate sacrifices made by economic operators. This measure aimed to neutralise the increase in international maritime freight and deal with the threat to the availability of consumer goods. The Government also banned the export of vegetable oils (Mayor, Azur, Diamoar, Star oil, Pacific oil and Neimar) and cereals (maize, rice, millet and sorghum) to ensure the availability of these products in local markets.

494- Similarly, MINEPIA worked to satisfy the demand for animal products, notably by continuous increase in production and reduction of losses via death. These actions helped stabilise the national distribution chain of the beef industry at about 11,000 animals slaughtered per week. Measures to guarantee bio-safety contributed to preserve huge farms from the African swine fever which led to pork production estimated at 12,808 tons in the 4th quarter of 2021 and 5,500 tons in December alone. In terms of fishery products, Government efforts helped ensure the availability of 74,554 tons of fresh fish in the last quarter of the year while the imported stock was 22,000 tons.

495- On its part, MINADER undertook to revamp local offer of high-demand crops such as cereals, roots and tubers, plantains and vegetables. This helped project an annual production of about 12,860,000 tons of maize, 121,000 tons of rice, 1,200,000 tons of sorghum, 458,000 tons of Irish potatoes, 20,000 tons of soya, 5,700,000 tons of plantains and 6,250,000 tons of cassava.

496- Furthermore, on 26 January 2021, MINEPAT and the World Bank signed a credit agreement to the tune of USD 60,000,000, that is about CFAF 35,900,000,000¹⁴⁴ to implement the Lake Chad Region Recovery and Development Project (PROLAC). These funds are intended to improve the living conditions and resilience of the population in the Logone and Chari Division in the Far North Region, to rehabilitate 314km of road and support income generating activities.

¹⁴³ This measure was to last till 28 February 2022, renewable if necessary.

¹⁴⁴ About 54,809,160.30 Euros.

b) Measures to Reduce Imports

497- In a bid to promote “Made in Cameroon” products, MINCOMMERCE carried out initiatives by developing circuits for access to funding, opening 63 shops to showcase local products, etc.

498- MINADER laid emphasis on developing arable lands and automating production and processing.

499- In addition, the Cameroon Sugar Corporation (SOSUCAM) and the Customs Administration signed a memorandum of understanding on 5 August 2021 to set up a framework for collaboration and support to fight against illicit trade, particularly illegal importation of sugar.

B: Increasing Facilities and Spaces for the Distribution of Products

500- With the aim of helping the population have easy access to products at reduced costs, the State and RLAs organised several one-time activities. RLAs and private facilities also developed new spaces for the distribution of products.

1) One-time Activities to Facilitate Accessibility of Food Products

501- In order to supply markets and facilitate access to foodstuff for people in urban areas during the end of year festivities, several fairs and mini-agropastoral shows were organised across the national territory, either by MINCOMMERCE or by private organisations. In this vein, farmers, cattle breeders, fish farmers and other stakeholders of the rural sector, individually or in groups as Common Initiative Groups and cooperatives sold fruits, vegetables, diverse tubers, chicken, meat and fish at affordable prices to the public. Processors in Cameroon were also given the possibility to sell their products such as plantains and cassava-based pasta, cassava, lime and honey-based liquors as well as vegetable oils thus contributing to implement Government’s import-substitution policy.

2) Developing New Spaces for the Distribution of Food Products

502- The “Ongola” shopping centre constructed in the city centre by the Yaounde City Council was commissioned on 29 September 2021. It is built on a surface area of about 1 hectare and has 176 shops, 26 cubicles, 3 sheds of about 300 spaces, an administrative block, a restaurant,

an infirmary and modern toilets with a large in-take capacity. This shopping space is primarily dedicated to resettling street vendors who used to congest the arteries of the Yaounde Central Market.

503- In December 2021, SODEPA opened a modern butcher's shop¹⁴⁵ in Ebolowa, South Region constructed on a surface area of 108 m² worth CFAF 75,000,000¹⁴⁶. This facility helped reduce dirtiness and anarchic settling of butchers that prevailed in the town.

C: Support to Economic Stakeholders

504- On 8 July 2021, under the aegis of MINCOMMERCE, the National Trade Union of livestock vendors and related activities of Cameroon and the National Trade Union of butchers of Cameroon signed a partnership agreement to set up a mechanism for support and pooling of resources to improve marketing conditions and the sale of fresh meat. These included agreed schedules for the supply of local markets with good quality of beef in sufficient quantity, the creation, installation and management of modern butcher's shops in areas.

505- The Standards and Quality Agency (ANOR) organised 11 seminars and workshops for producers, importers, trade unions, administrations, authorities in charge of markets, consumers rights associations and personnel of analysis and test laboratories on the mastery of mechanisms to eliminate Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) as part of the operationalisation of the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA), quality control procedures and mastery of the requirements of ISO 9001 on quality management systems, ISO 27000 on information security management, ISO 14001 on environmental management and ISO 37001 on anti-corruption management system.

§5: Guaranteeing Acceptability of Food Products

506- The Government focused on quality improvement, standardisation and certification as well as quality control of these products.

¹⁴⁵ It comprises a cold room to preserve products, cutting and show rooms (2 refrigerated display spaces of a capacity of 368 litres, a storage area, a bathroom and an office.

¹⁴⁶ About 114,503.8 Euros.

A: Improving the Quality of Food Products

507- The State carried out several activities to improve the quality of food products. For example, the Steering Committee of the Competitiveness Support Facility for Cameroon with the support of MINEPAT and the European Union, organised a capacity building workshop for agri-food professional organisations specifically in the packaging and labelling industry from 18 to 21 August 2021 in Douala. The goal was to educate participants on the qualities of good packaging to ensure conservation, transport and safety of food products.

508- As part of the agro-pastoral component of the European Development Fund, the National Community-Driven Development Programme (PNDP) offered maize and groundnut to the Lom-and-Djerem Division in the East Region, which is an important cassava production basin and 6 drying areas in the localities of Ndoumbi I and II, Kanda, Minkolong, Mbeth and Moundi. These facilities evaluated at CFAF 17,400,000¹⁴⁷ contributed to improving processing and conservation systems and consequently, the quality of products concerned.

509- On 26 and 28 October 2021 in Yaounde, through the Women, Youth and Standardisation Unit, ANOR organised an awareness raising and a training session for food retailers, members of the *Bayam-sellam Association*, on hygiene and sanitation and best practices in the sale of food products. Participants were enlightened, on the one hand, on the advantages of packaging and procedures for quality control of foodstuff and on the other hand, on the dangers of using chemical products to conserve or quicken the ripening of foodstuff and placing products on the ground.

510- On 13 December 2021 in Yaounde, ANOR also organised a capacity building workshop for stakeholders on sanitation systems in conformity with ISO standards 30500 and 31800.

B: Standardisation and Certification of Food Products

511- Activities on the standardisation of products, mainly carried out by ANOR, resulted in the drafting of standards, evaluation of conformity of goods and certification of local products.

¹⁴⁷About 26,564.8 Euros.

1) Drafting Standards

512- In a bid to guarantee economic and social rights of citizens in general, and the right to sufficient food and a healthy environment in particular, ANOR drafted 276 new standards and technical specifications in fields including agri-food, chemical engineering, fertiliser as illustrated in the table below:

Table 2: Standards and Technical Specifications Drafted by ANOR in 2021

Industry	Number of standards and technical specifications drafted
Environment and nature	35 Cameroon standards
Tobacco and tobacco products	22 Cameroon standards
Metalwork, steelwork and metal processing	117 Cameroon standards
Fertilisers	102 technical specifications
Chemical engineering	
Textile, leather and clothing industry	
Health and welfare actions	
Technology and food products	
TOTAL	276 standards drafted

Source: ANOR

2) Evaluating Conformity of Goods

513- Decree No. 2015/1875/PM of 1 July 2015 instituting and setting the modalities of implementation of the Pre-Shipment Evaluation of Conformity (PECAE) for goods imported into the Republic of Cameroon was amended and supplemented by Decree No. 2021/3306/PM of 31 May 2021. As major progress, since 15 November 2021, the procedure to evaluate pre-shipment conformity is compulsory for all goods before they can be put into circulation in Cameroon.

514- Within the framework of PECAE, 6065 conformity certificates were issued in 2021.

3) Certification of Local Products

515- ANOR issued a total of 264 certificates for local products in various industries, the greater part being in the food industry distributed as follows:

Table 3: Number of Certifications of Local Products Issued by ANOR in 2021

Industry	Number of certificates issued
Food industry	205
Cosmetics	22
Building and Construction	6
Stationery	10
Textiles	1
Pharmaceutical engineering	20
TOTAL	264

Source: ANOR

C: Quality Control of Food Products

516- Quality control activities led to the seizure of significant quantities of non-compliant or contraband products unfit for human consumption.

1) Control Activities

517- As part of their mission to monitor markets, the MINCOMMERCE National Brigade for Fraud Control and Repression teams carried out a total of 21,916 controls in markets. In terms of concrete results, 6,388 sanctions were imposed, 47 shops sealed, and 71,076 products seized for non-compliance, sale of forbidden products and non-respect of approved prices. Quality control of products by this Brigade was mainly focused on refined oils enriched with vitamin A and mineral water.

518- Pursuant to Order No. 000084/A/MINMIDT/SG/DM/DAJ of 4 March 2021, the Minister of Mines, Industry and technological Development suspended SANO S.A. from production and packaging of water into bottles and dispensers intended for consumption, for reasons relating to quality.

519- ANOR also carried out control missions on products in the market as well as investigations following alerts and denunciations from the public. The report of their control activity is summarised in the table below:

Table 4: Report of Product Control Activities by ANOR in 2021

Number of reports and alerts	Number of investigations carried out	Number of reports on investigation of offences	Number of facilities controlled	Number of products seized
5	10	328	334	3459

Source: ANOR

2) Seizure of Contraband Products

520- As part of “Operation Stop Illicit Trade III” (HALCOMI III), the Customs department seized several types of goods fraudulently brought into Cameroon whose questionable quality could have a negative impact on health. For example, on 23 April 2021, members of Zone I seized 30 pallets of contraband soft drinks on the Moungo bridge; from 16 to 18 September 2021, the Mora, Maroua and Magada Custom posts in the Far North Region seized 309 bags of sugar, 350 pallets of soft drinks and cartons of maggi cube.

521- The police also distinguished itself in this activity. On 3 August 2021, members of the 8th District Public Security Police Station in Douala seized 243 pallets of alcoholic drinks of questionable origin.

SECTION 2: RIGHT TO WATER AND ENERGY

522- The Government undertook actions to ensure access to potable water and electricity.

§1: Access to Potable Water

523- Actions focused mainly on continuous execution of projects to produce and distribute potable water.

A: Continuous Execution of Water Production Projects

524- As part of the Potable Water Supply Project in Yaounde (PAEPYS) and its outskirts from the River Sanaga, actions undertaken till the month of October 2021 moved the global execution rate of the Project to 81.5%; (execution studies: 99.8%; supplies: 97.2%; works: 68.5%) compared to 36.95% in October 2020.

525- The execution rate of the Nachtigal raw water pumping and catchment station was 97% while that of the Emanu Batchenga water treatment plant was 98.5%. The execution rate of the Nkomotou processing station stood at 96.1%. The execution rate of the Nyom II treated water recovery station was 61%. That of the Ndindan treated water reservoir was 5.2% while that of the laying of pipes on the Nachtigal Station was 36%.

526- The laying of pipes by the SINOMACH Company increased from 800 metres in 2020 to 27 kilometres in 2021.

527- The potable water supply project of 7 secondary centres¹⁴⁸ funded by the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA) and the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries' Fund for International Development, was completed in 2021. The 7 centres concerned were functional namely: Kette, Messamena, Bot-Makak, Akom II, Olamze, Mvengue and Mvangan.

528- Moreover, the project for the construction, rehabilitation and extension of potable water supply systems in 52 centres¹⁴⁹, structured in 7 phases was completed. The first 6 phases of this project which concerned 38 localities were completed in 2020 and completion reports prepared. In 2021, the last phase which had as target 14 centres¹⁵⁰, were also completed. Moreover, the works in the Bangoua, Banyo, Mbalmayo and Djoum centres were temporarily received.

529- Regarding the project to improve potable water supply in Yaounde, Edea, Ngaoundere and Bertoua, the global execution rate in 2021 was about 95 % (about 100% for Yaounde, 99% for Edea, 96% for Bertoua and 82 % for Ngaoundere), that is a global progress rate of 14 % compared to the year 2020.

530- Furthermore, the first phase¹⁵¹ of the project funded by Eximbank China which seeks to extend and revamp potable water production stations in

¹⁴⁸ Cities with an average population density such as Nanga Eboko, Ebolowa.

¹⁴⁹ Cities with a high population density such as Douala, Yaounde, Bafoussam.

¹⁵⁰ These towns are Mayo Oulo, Chidifi, Figuil, Banyo, Bankim, Dimako, Mbe, Djoum, Lomie, Sa'a, Pitoa, Yoko, Bangoua and Mbalmayo.

¹⁵¹ This phase concerned 4 cities namely: Bafoussam, Bamenda, Kribi and Sangmelima. At the end, it shall increase the additional daily production by 10,000m³ per city in Bafoussam and Bamenda and by 7,000m³ per city in Kribi and Sangmelima, making a total of 34,000m³.

9 cities, were completed in the cities of Bafoussam, Kribi and Sangmelima, and were temporarily received.

531- In addition, with the support of SINOMACH, the Cameroon Government initiated the rehabilitation of 350 Scan water stations. MINEE and SINOMACH visited 6 out of the 8 regions with Scanwater stations to carry out studies in 248 stations.

532- Within the context of the Studies for the mobilisation and valorisation of runoff water through hillside reservoirs in the North Region project, in 2021, the Government, finalised the detailed preliminary design studies, the environmental and social impact studies and prepared the tender documents to present the bankable studies to donors for the construction of structures in the North Region.

533- Regarding the Three-Year Emergency Plan for Economic Growth, MINEE continued the construction of drinking water facilities and boreholes in the 10 Regions. In September 2021, 256 boreholes were dug, taking the total number from 1,263 to 1,519.

B: Water Distribution

534- On 21 January 2021, a ceremony was held to lay the foundation stone for the construction of a potable water supply network at down town Nkoteng downtown in the Haute-Sanaga Division in the Centre Region. The said network funded to the tune of CFAF 600 000 000¹⁵² by FEICOM is made up of 5 boreholes grouped together into a 200 m³ water tower and shall produce 25 m³ of water per hour. This water tower shall be powered by solar energy and a standalone with a water capacity of 5,000 litres per day. Trenches of over 25km connected to 60 public taps and several private connections shall also be made.

535- Moreover, in the Njimom Council in the Noun Division, a potable water supply project¹⁵³ made up of a 1 000 m³ water tower, 1.5 km of piping and distribution, 8 public taps and 3 individual connections was inaugurated on 14 December 2021.

¹⁵² About 916,030.5343 Euros.

¹⁵³ This project which costs CFAF 121,000,000 that is 184,732.8244 Euros was funded by FEICOM.

536- All of these works helped increase the rate of access to potable water to 66.5%.

§2: Access to Energy

537- Actions carried out focused on strengthening the institutional framework, access to electrical energy, renewable energy and oil and gas products.

A: Strengthening the Institutional Framework

538- The Electricity Sector Development Fund (FDSE)¹⁵⁴ went operational with the establishment of the committee in charge of FDSE projects, which held its first session in June 2021. During the session, it was decided that MINEE should set up a Technical Secretariat which should create a data base integrating projects defined by MINEE and proposals were made by operators in the sector; that the projects committee should adopt the list of projects and provisional budgets for each project for the 2022 financial year, subject to the transmission of project files to members; the Technical Secretariat should draft the FDSE procedure manual; ARSEL, the Accountant and operator of the sector, should raise funds for the financing of FDSE projects and activities.

539- The FDSE financed services in connection with the electrification of some 40 localities throughout the country, as well as the connection of some agro-industrial units. These included the rural electrification of the Massare II locality in Mayo Sava Division, Far North Region (Lot 1); rural electrification of the Héré locality in Mayo Sava Division, Far North Region (Lot 2); rural electrification of Tchakamari, Mora Council, in Mayo Sava Division, Far North Region (Lot 3) and rehabilitation works on the three-phase and single-phase HTA air network of the Mvila-Yeminsemefo axis, in Mvila Division, South Region.

B: Access to Electrical Energy

540- Actions focused on the continuation of infrastructure projects for production, transmission and distribution of electrical energy.

¹⁵⁴ The 2021 Finance Law dedicated CFAF 7,000,000,000 (about 10, 687, 022.09 Euros) to this fund.

1) Continuation of Electrical Energy Production Infrastructure Projects

541- In 2021, construction of the 30MW LomPangar substation and power transmission lines as well as the 90kV power transmission line between LomPangar and Bertoua was continued. The execution rate for these projects was about 45% on 30 October 2021 compared to 23% as at 30 October 2020. Most of the works in 2021 were engineering works and construction works of the transmission line.

542- As concerns the 211 MW capacity Memve'ele hydroelectric project on the Ntem River, the construction of the dam was completed. The full commissioning of this facility, which currently produces only 90 MW was dependent on the completion of the construction of the Nyabizan-Yaounde transmission line, the execution rate of which at 92% as at 30 September 2021. Revenue generated since it was powered on from April 2019 to October 2021 stood at about CFAF45, 000,000,000¹⁵⁵, with about CFAF 19,739,892,000¹⁵⁶ in 2021. This partial power on allowed the thermal power stations of Ahala, Oyom-Abang, Mbalmayo and Ebolowa to be shut down in 2019.

543- In 2021, production resumed at the 15MW capacity Mekin hydroelectric power station which had previously suffered some technical difficulties. The 3 generators of this power station that supply the Sangmelima D31 and Meyomessala D32 were available and functioning.

544- Furthermore, the 420 MW capacity Nachtigal Amont hydroelectric facility¹⁵⁷ on River Sanaga, associated with a 225 KV double circuit transmission line between Nachtigal and Yaounde which began on 1 February 2019 continued. As at September 2021, the execution rate stood at about 50%.

545- As part of the 75 MW *Bini à Warak* hydroelectric project, associated with a 225 KV high voltage power transmission line, which enables energy produced to be transmitted to the national electricity network, the Resettlement Action Plan (RAP) was implemented and the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) of the transmission line was completed.

¹⁵⁵ About 68, 702, 290.07 Euros.

¹⁵⁶ About 30,137,239.69 Euros.

¹⁵⁷ This project concerns the construction of a 420 megawatts (MW) Nachtigal Amont hydroelectric facility on the Sanaga River, associated with a 225 kilovolts (kV) double circuit transmission line between Nachtigal and Yaounde.

2) Continuation of Electrical Energy Transmission Infrastructure Projects

546- The signing of the first compensation decrees, notably Decree No. 2021/4505/PM of 5 July 2021 on compensation for persons victims of loss of land rights and/or destruction of property during the construction of the 225kV Nkongsamba-Bafoussam electricity transmission line in the Littoral Region enabled the start of construction of the 225KV electrical energy transmission line between Nkongsamba-Bafoussam and Yaounde-Abong-Mbang, construction of 225/90/30 KV HT substations in Bafoussam and 225/90 KV substation in Abong-Mbang as well as extension of the Ahala and Bekoko substations. In October 2021, the progress rate of these constructions was about 82.5% and the rate of acquisition of equipment was 95%.

547- Moreover, the signing of Decree No. 2021/6443/PM of 1 September 2021 on compensation for persons victims of loss of land rights and/or destruction of property and crops during the construction of the 90 KV Ahala-Nkolanga-Kondengui line and the Nkolanga substation in the Centre Region, facilitated the completion of construction of the Nkolanga lines and substation.

548- Furthermore, in October 2021, equipment acceptance tests were carried out at the Ahala, Oyomabang and Ngousso substations, taking the rate of physical execution of works to 72%.

549- In September 2021, the global execution rate for the construction of a 1.4 MW hydroelectric power station at Mbakaou Carriere in Adamawa Region stood at 90%.

550- Furthermore, most of the people affected by the Electricity Transmission and Reform Project which aims to improve capacity, efficiency and reliability of the electricity transmission grid in Cameroon were compensated in October 2021 and earthworks on the Nyom II substation site were completed.

3) Distribution of Electrical Energy

551- Improvement of electricity access rate in urban, semi-urban and rural areas continued through the implementation of several rural electrification projects carried out by the State and its Institutions. Thus, the Pro-

ject for rural electrification and electricity access for under-served areas in Cameroon which targets 200,000 households in the Northern regions and in the East, North West and South West Regions continued. In this vein, an agreement was signed in July 2021 between AER and ENEO to set up a revolving Fund¹⁵⁸ mechanism to connect households.

552- Connection campaigns continued for the first electrification phase of 166 localities. All the power stations were commissioned with a total of 13,984 connections, of which 3,100 were connected in 2021. The retrocession of the management of these power stations to AER was completed in February 2021.

553- Construction works were completed for the 2nd phase of electrification (184 localities). Continued connection campaigns led to an increase in the number of connected households from 6,720 in 2020 to 9,820 in 2021 that is 3,946 new households connected in 2021.

554- Technical and administrative maturation was finalised for the 3rd phase of electrification (200 localities).

555- Moreover, in December 2021, Cameroon paid the sum of CFAF 47,157,783,694¹⁵⁹ as acquisition indemnity to be paid to ENEO following the State's withdrawal of the transport segment of its concession.

556- As a result of the foregoing, the number of ENEO subscribers increased by 160,000 new customers (76,000 resulting from new connections and the rest from the conversion of illegal consumers) to reach 1,643,885 at the end of October 2021. Work carried out in the electricity sector led to an increase in the rate of access to electricity to 65% in 2021, that is 5,886,618, 113 MWH of total energy transported.

C: Renewable Energy

557- The project to promote the use of renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies in households in rural areas of Cameroon carried out with the support of UNESCO to improve access to clean and sustain-

¹⁵⁸ The revolving fund allows for the provision of a payment facility for households (with special emphasis on women and vulnerable persons) with modest incomes to be connected to ENEO, dealer in public electricity distribution networks and as such promote access to electricity for a large number of people.

¹⁵⁹ About 71,996,619.326 Euros.

nable energy for the people in the North and Far North Regions of Cameroon led to the distribution of renewable energy equipment (Photovoltaic solar kits, bio-digesters, improved cooking stoves, improved smokers, briquettes and eco-friendly coals) and energy efficiency equipment to at least 6,000 persons, particularly women and youths.

558- Furthermore, as part of this project 1,000 households were identified and 36 staff were trained to supervise these households. Over 600 households were trained to set up and maintain solar kits, manufacture improved cooking stoves, eco-briquettes, bio-digesters and smoke ovens. Some 5 women underwent a four-month training on the assembly of solar equipment from June to October 2021 in Dakar, Senegal.

559- In a bid to reduce the deficit between supply and demand of the North interconnected grid, 2 modular solar power stations with storage batteries of a combined capacity of 30 MW+20MWH were installed in Maroua and Guider.

D: Oil and Gas Products

560- Distribution points of oil products increased with the construction of 7 new filling stations, taking the total number of filling stations to 858 as at 10 October 2021, with 308 of them in rural areas, that is 36%. This increase in the distribution network of oil products is a result of authorisations granted to 6 new companies.

561- With a view to providing consumers with quality products, the coordination committee for the fight against fraudulent oil and gas products stepped up its efforts to put an end to the proliferation of illicit trafficking networks of these products. In this vein, about 920,000 m³ of all such products were seized.

562- As concerns storage of oil products, Cameroon Company of Petroleum Depots (SCDP) completed the installation of video surveillance and remote monitoring systems at its depots in Yaounde, Douala and Bafoussam. Moreover, it increased storage capacity through m³ gasoil depot at Nsam in Yaounde and modernised its commercial butane gas barrelling facilities by establishing a new carousel on the Bonaberi site which increased its daily production from 80 to 100 tons.

SECTION 3: RIGHT TO DECENT HOUSING

563- In 2021, efforts made by public authorities to facilitate access to decent housing included strengthening the normative framework and signing agreements housing development, continuing the construction and management of houses, securing lands and promoting real estate by private individuals, and executing urban development and sanitation works in cities.

§1: Strengthening the Normative Framework and Signing Agreements

564- On 28 December 2021, the President of the Republic signed Decree No. 21/744 to lay down the terms and conditions governing the exercise of some town planning and housing powers devolved upon regions by the State. This instrument extends to the regions the powers previously vested on central bodies as regards participation in drafting urban planning documents and master plans as well as support to council action.

565- Furthermore, regarding the execution of rehabilitation works in some cities, 46 contracts were signed between the Cameroon Housing Corporation (SIC) and the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (MINHDU), for a total amount of CFAF 1,771,000,000¹⁶⁰. At the end of the year under review, the execution rate of the contracts signed stood at 81.53%.

566- In addition, on 28 January 2021, a city contract worth CFAF 27,950,000,000¹⁶¹ was signed between MINHDU and the Mayor of the city of Bertoua, for the urban development of the said city for the period 2020-2026.

567- In order to develop synergy and complementarity of actions aimed at contributing to the reduction of the social housing deficit, through the use of local material for the building of houses and at low cost, a partnership agreement was signed on 31 May 2021 in Yaounde between MINHDU, SIC, the Local Materials Promotion Authority (MIPROMALO) and the *Cimenterie du Cameroun (CIMENCAM)* for the implementation of the Project « *terre-ciment* » (earth concrete). Out of the 2000 houses to be

¹⁶⁰ About 2, 703, 816 Euros.

¹⁶¹ About 42, 671. 755 Euros

constructed with earth concrete materials for the Project, 200 had already been constructed in the town of Pitoa in its pilot phase.

§2: Continuation of the Construction and Management of Houses, Securing Land and Promotion of Real Estate by Private Individuals

568- Progress was made in constructing and managing houses, securing lands and ensuring participation of individuals in real estate management.

A: Construction and Management of Low-Cost Houses

569- As part of the Government programme to construct 10,000 low-cost houses and develop 50,000 plots fit for building which began since 2009, 220 houses were constructed in 2021, taking the number completed to 2,780. Among these houses, 1,472 were given out, including 200 to MIN-DEF and 22 to players of the pennant national football team who made the country proud during the 1990 football world cup.

570- Regarding PLANUT which started in 2016, the houses are 75% completed with about 600 houses received out of 800 targeted by the project including 100 houses received in 2021 in Maroua. Houses in Bamenda (150) and Buea (100) were not received due to the unstable security situation in the North West and South West Regions.

571- As part of the State-SIC contract plan, a building of 24 apartments named “Residence ABIERGUE”, constructed on a 1,300m² surface area at Cité Verte in Yaounde was received and was the subject of tenancy agreement No. 292 signed between SIC and MINDCAF on 25 October 2021.

572- Regarding the management of houses already available in 2021, 1,035 were bought, by cash, deposits or through the Cameroon Housing Loan Fund (CFC). About CFAF 11,291,391,613¹⁶² was recovered by SIC as part of this operation, with CFAF 8,000,000,000¹⁶³ spent by MINH DU for rehabilitation works and construction of houses.

¹⁶² About 17, 238, 765. 82 Euros.

¹⁶³ About 12, 213, 740. 46 Euros.

573- Also, in 2021, 381 classic real estate loans¹⁶⁴ were granted at preferential rates by CFAF amounting to CFAF 17,484,727,381¹⁶⁵ for the construction of 1,497 houses and purchase of building lots. There are 3 types of classic real estate loans namely:

- Classic buyer real estate loan: 295 loan agreements funded at CFAF 7,139,113,723¹⁶⁶ to construct 317 houses and acquire land to build;
- Classic youth real estate loan: 110 loan agreements funded at CFAF 2,743,086,574¹⁶⁷;
- Classic rental real estate loan: 64 loan agreements funded at CFAF 3,641,678,686¹⁶⁸.

B: Securing of Land and Compensation

574- Regarding efforts to continue providing large surface areas of land, MINDCAF signed several Public Utility Declarations for MAETUR at Mban-komo town (Mefou and Akono Division) on a surface area of 1,000 ha, Lobo-Botmakak (Nyong and Kelle Division) on 2,500 ha, Massoumbou (Nkam Division) on 5,700 ha, Djebale (Wouri Division) on 3,500 ha, and Bangseng (Moungo Division) on 2,500 ha.

575- At Djebale, the land regularisation agreement was in process in 2021. Negotiations were ongoing for the acquisition of the Yansoki Bakoko site (212 ha) in the Wouri Division.

576- Concerning the transfer to MAETUR of private State lands, on a total surface area of 1,000 ha, (that is 100 ha in each regional headquarter), sites of 100 ha in Ebolowa, 100 ha in Maroua and 50 ha in Bertoua were identified in collaboration with MINDCAF Regional Delegates.

577- Furthermore, from 2019, MAETUR launched a campaign for massive production of land titles for its clients. This continued with the devolved services of MINDCAF and started yielding satisfactory results.

¹⁶⁴ Classic real estate loan, is a type of immediate loan for any real estate project meant for personal houses. The practical guide for the classic real estate loan and documents to be presented for the classic real estate loan file can be found on the website of the Cameroon Housing Loan Fund: at www.creditfoncier.cm

¹⁶⁵ About 26, 694, 240. 28 Euros.

¹⁶⁶ About 10, 899, 410. 26 Euros.

¹⁶⁷ About 4, 187, 918. 43 Euros.

¹⁶⁸ About 55, 588, 822. 42 Euros.

578- As for the construction of the Yaounde-Nsimalen high way which comprises 3 components all executed under the supervision of MAETUR, the right-of-way component of 200m was executed in its emergency phase at 85%, the Corridor studies component was completely executed and handed over in 2021, while the resettlement sites development component did not progress in 2021, as the population of the Ntoun site were not compensated.

579- The process of securing land through issuance of land titles to natural persons and corporate bodies progressed in some regions while it slowed down in others as shown in the comparative table below:

Table 5: Statistics on Land Certificates established

Regions	2020	2021
Adamawa	527	793
Centre	5119	4647
East	264	486
Far North	735	793
Littoral	3428	2297
North	420	454
North West	483	955
West	1384	1381
South	1547	980
South West	713	981
Total	14,620	13,767

SOURCE: MINDCAF

580- Moreover, the number of land titles issued by direct registration to regional and local authorities moved from 1,125 in 2020 to 1,296 in 2021.

C: Real Estate Promotion by Individuals

581- Individuals contributed to developing real estate thanks to simplified conditions for becoming a real estate promoter, as the financial security bond moved from CFAF 25,000,000¹⁶⁹ to CFAF 2,500,000¹⁷⁰. Consequently, 21 new real estate promoters received authorisation to practice in 2021, increasing their total number to 250. Two (2) new real estate agencies received authorisation while the authorisation of 4 others was renewed.

¹⁶⁹ About 38,167.93 Euros.

¹⁷⁰ About 3,816.79 Euros.

582- The report of real estate promotion by individuals carried out in 2021 revealed 938 houses completed, in varied categories, 3,270 under construction, 3,212 plots developed and 702.8 hectares of land secured.

§3: Development and Sanitation Measures in Urban Areas

583- In a bid to take into consideration the cost component in the construction of houses, public authorities continued urban development and sanitation within cities in 2021.

A: Urban Development

584- As part of habitability works, 23 contracts worth CFAF 15,000,000,000¹⁷¹ and 16 contracts worth at CFAF 8,000,000,000¹⁷² were awarded and executed. Some 7 contracts amounting to CFAF 7,000,000,000¹⁷³ were being executed by the end of the year

585- As regards the provision of services, following discussions between MAETUR and regional and local authorities, a framework agreement and two specific Agreements were signed with the Douala III Council. Framework and specific agreements were being negotiated with the Douala City Council, Douala V Council and Edea City Council. These services seek to improve the living conditions of the population.

B: Urban Sanitation Measures

586- As part of urban sanitation, the Yaounde City Council provided 7 Sub-divisional Councils with rolling stock to better manage waste. This action was part of the implementation of the second phase of the Yaounde sanitation project (PADY 2) which aims to improve rainwater drainage, hygiene and health conditions in the city. Before that, in April 2021, the Douala City Council launched the first phase of the operation to clean some main roads of the city by removing glass and plastic bottles, stones, cartons and papers, etc. from gutters.

587- On 2 July 2021, several sanitation tools including work gloves, spades, boots, 2 motor tricycles with tarpaulin and repair material, raincoats, rakes,

¹⁷¹ About 22,900,763.36 Euros.

¹⁷² About 12,213,740.46 Euros.

¹⁷³ About 10,687,022.90 Euros.

5 rickshaws, were handed to 2 associations active in the collection of household waste in the Yaounde I Sub-divisional Council. This was done within the framework of PADY 2. The objective was to put an end to dumping of refuse in inappropriate places such as water ways and their banks, gutters and drains.

588- In addition, on 20 August 2021, a ceremony took place in Douala to present 100 new refuse trucks, which was the outcome of a partnership between the Douala City Council and the *Société Hygiène et Salubrité du Cameroun* (Cameroon Hygiene and Sanitation Company) (HYSACAM). The expected outcome is to make the city of Douala sparkling and maintain an impeccable state of cleanliness, by tracking down household refuse, removing dirt from pavements, restoring civic order with the help of everyone to improve the level of refuse collection while creating jobs.

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589- Overall, despite numerous obstacles, especially those relating to financing and the supply of basic necessities, the State strove to guarantee for the people, acceptable food, reasonable quantities of water and energy as well as decent housing. However, there is still much to be done in this sector to guarantee optimal respect for the right of the population to an adequate standard of living.

CHAPTER 4

RIGHT TO WORK AND SOCIAL SECURITY

590- In 2021, health and security crises were among the factors that had a significant impact on employment and vocational training. In this particularly difficult context, measures were taken to achieve strategic objectives with regard to the promotion of employment, promotion and protection of quality social security for all, decent jobs and revitalisation of social dialogue in all sectors of activity.

SECTION 1: CONTINUED PROMOTION OF EMPLOYMENT

591- Actions aimed at scaling up job offer continued, likewise those designed to match training to jobs and to improve labour market efficiency.

§1: Actions to Increase Job Offer

592- The policy to scale up job offer centred on assisting youths in their professional integration, supporting Small and Medium-sized Enterprises, and ensuring continued implementation of specific programmes.

A: Assisting Youths in their Professional Integration

593- As part of its support to producers' organisations, the National Programme for the Consolidation and Sustainability of Agro-pastoral Counselling (PCP-ACEFA) of MINEPIA on 17 August 2020, handed over about CFAF 2,000,000¹⁷⁴ to the "Dempol" Common Initiative Group (CIG) based in Moya in the Nkam Division, specialised in pig farming. Agril-Pro-venderie, a Common Initiative Group based in Souza in the Mounjo Division, specialised in poultry farming, also received financial assistance worth CFAF 2,000,000. Furthermore, 17 other CIGs in the same Division and 12 in the Nkam Division received a support of CFAF 166,000,000¹⁷⁵.

594- Through the *Youth Connekt Cameroon Initiative*, the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Civic Education (MINJEC) carried out some activities, including: selecting and supporting 48 young entrepreneurs in the area of renewable energy and waste recycling (16 women and 32 men); organising the 100% *Made in Cameroon* trade fare during which the 105 young promoters mobilised received support in the development of their projects; training and assisting 58 young entrepreneurs to set up business; and creating 12 stable jobs within the framework of promoting entrepreneurship among youths.

¹⁷⁴About 3,053. 44 Euros.

¹⁷⁵ About 253,435.11 Euros.

595- In addition, High Intensity Labour Approach (HIMO) made it possible in 2021 to: carry out 27 agropastoral microprojects in the Benoue Division, including 14 at Bashéo and 13 at Dembo; create more than 1,420 direct jobs, with 462 in the Nwa, Mbengwi and Fundong localities in the North West Region, and to build 20 food supply shops in Bayangam.

596- The National Employment Fund (NEF) also supported 1,937 youths to be self-employed, registered 66,300 new job seekers¹⁷⁶ (against 53,417 in 2020), contributed to the recruitment of 35,000 persons (against 30,280 in 2020), assisted 43 street children to become self-employed and paid for the training of 106 of them, including 46 living with disabilities.

597- In the same vein, the Support Programme for Rural Development (PA-DER) financed 90 microprojects. Also, the Sangmelima, Bafia, Bertoua and Ebolowa councils assisted 2100 youths to start business within the framework of the Urban Special Employment Program (USEP).¹⁷⁷

598- The Integrated Support Project for Informal Sector Actors provided financial support to the tune of CFAF 200,000,000¹⁷⁸ to 108 microprojects of youth groups, which created 432 jobs, including 108 direct and 324 indirect jobs; fostered self-employment among ex-migrants through financial support of CFAF 100,000,000¹⁷⁹ within the framework of 56 microprojects which led to the creation of 224 jobs(56 direct and 168 indirect jobs); provided funding of CFAF 100,000,000¹⁸⁰ to informal sector stakeholders of the digital economy sector, through 45 microprojects which led to the creation of 180 jobs, including 45 direct and 135 indirect jobs.

¹⁷⁶ This was achieved thanks to the digitalisation of operational procedures which made it possible to carry out remote registration of candidates.

¹⁷⁷ USEP is one of the numerous programmes designed and implemented by the NEF to address youth unemployment and improve the living environment in urban areas. It gives beneficiaries the opportunity to be trained and find a job of be self-employed. Moreover, USEP is based on the use of a strong locally-supplied labour for the implementation of HIMO-based projects, through development, re-organisation and sanitation works, and the improvement of public infrastructure in cities.

¹⁷⁸ About 305,343.51 Euros

¹⁷⁹ About 152,671.75 Euros

¹⁸⁰ About 152,671.75 Euros.

599- In view of fostering youth integration, the Government made the following investments: the production, acquisition and customisation operations of the biometric youth card to the tune of CFAF 389,375,000¹⁸¹ to enable young holders benefit from services and products with partners at reduced costs (42,125 basic social services offered to holders of the biometric youth card); registration of 134 youths on the breeding digital platform for an amount of CFAF 44,937,000¹⁸²; funding worth CFAF 30,000,000¹⁸³ for the training of 60 youths in the Vocational Training Centres of Excellence of the Ministry of Employment and Vocational Training (MINEFOP); the development of 73 new pioneer villages of second generation and of 33 economic clusters, as well as the direct financing of 1129 innovative individual projects to the tune of CFAF 1,108,667,764¹⁸⁴, assisting 39 youths from Multipurpose Youth Empowerment Centres (CMPJ) to set up business and 200 others within the framework of the Digital Youth Service Center as part of the *CMPJ-Incubator* programme in the sum of CFAF 187,000,000¹⁸⁵; pre and post financing support to young project leaders by the National Fund for Youth Integration (FONIJ); technical and entrepreneurial capacity building of 472 youths within the framework of 5 projects of the Rural and Urban Youth Support Project (PAJER-U); and the moral, civic and entrepreneurial enhancement of the Three-Year Special Youth Plan beneficiaries.

600- Likewise, the Sub-Programme for Poverty Alleviation at Grassroots level continued its activities through the implementation of the Economic Resilience Support Project (PAREC). Thus, 360 youths and women were trained in creating and managing micro enterprises, 275 youths and women were self-employed thanks to the provision of equipment for the implementation of 62 projects, and 3 Council Plans for Vocational Integration (PCIPJ) were drafted in Doume, Ngan-Ha and Garoua Boulai.

601- Council employment offices (BEM) were created and made operational at the Garoua 1, Wina, Logone Birni, Bibemi, Ngoura, Tcholine

¹⁸¹ About 594,465.65 Euros.

¹⁸² About 68,606.11 Euros

¹⁸³ About 45,801.53 Euros

¹⁸⁴ About 1,692,622.54 Euros

¹⁸⁵ About 285, 496 Euros.

and Poli Councils. These offices were set up to identify job offers and make them available to the public.

602- In addition, 6 value chains were strengthened, including: cassava cultivation and processing in Garoua Boulai, Doume and Dir; beans production in Ngan-Ha; storage and preservation of onions in Pitoa; processing and packaging of paddy rice in Touloum and Kousseri; storage and preservation of cowpeas in Moulvoudaye and processing of groundnut oil in Mokolo.

603- Within the framework of its partnership with the Government, the PUENE Foundation trained, 37 youths, including 21 women and 16 men in *Community management* and digital marketing from 5 August to 21 September 2021 in Yaounde. It equally offered a master class training in entrepreneurship to 50 youths.

604- To develop the creativity of youths and enhance their employability, a digital centre was set up within the framework of the Inter-State and Enterprises cooperation involving the Government of Cameroon, the German Government through the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) and the telecommunication multinational, Orange. This tool which aims at putting digital innovation at the service of socio-economic development should contribute to the digital transformation of Cameroon while creating local employment opportunities for youths.

B: Financial Support to Small and Medium-sized Enterprises

605- To support Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) in the development and enhancement of domestic production, 2 platforms were launched and presented to entrepreneurs. One of them called *Mutuelle d'inclusion sociale et de solidarité* (Social Inclusion and Solidarity Cooperative) aimed at strengthening and enhancing competitiveness in domestic production, and the other one called *Doing Business in Africa* was meant to develop and build the intervention capacity of companies in search of visibility and growth. This latter platform has a made in Cameroon showroom. These different platforms helped in facilitating access to various economies associated to the continental free trade area.

606- Moreover, on the initiative of the UNESCO Regional Office for Central Africa and its technical partner eSTE-Mate, was held from 22 to 23

October 2021 in Yaounde, the first *Youth ICT Boost Camp for Central Africa* on the theme *African Youth and Entrepreneurship in Digital World*. Its objective was to create a platform for strategic discussions between young entrepreneurs in the digital sector in Cameroon and Central Africa.

607- In order to improve the performance of parastatals, within the framework of the partnership between MINEFOP and the Cameroon Employers' Organisation (GICAM), 255 paid interns from private companies, parastatals and SMEs were trained by a Vocational Training Centre of Excellence (CFPE) and received end of training attestations on 18 October 2021. The said trainings focussed on approved industrial welding, preparation for electrical accreditation, health-quality-safety-environment in agro-industry, electrical maintenance, industrial installation, responsible driving and the safety of lorry drivers.

608- From 14 to 28 May 2021, the Sea Fishing Development Fund organised a theoretical training session for 33 fish farmers in the areas of urban fish farming, on construction of concrete fish tanks, mounting of *fast-tank*¹⁸⁶, fish stocking and aquaculture entrepreneurship. The objective of this training session was to promote the economic autonomy of vulnerable women through fish farming.

C: Continued Implementation of Specific Programmes

609- MINJEC financed operations for the production, acquisition and customisation of the biometric youth card to the tune of CFAF 389,375,000¹⁸⁷, which enabled youths to benefit from services with partners¹⁸⁸ at reduced costs.

610- Following a vast operation to mobilise and enrol youths all over the national territory, 50,000 biometric youth cards were distributed. These cards were intended to facilitate beneficiaries' access to transportation, accommodation, vocational training, supplies in supermarkets, leisure and health, at preferential costs.

¹⁸⁶ Above-ground tanks or out of the watershed, for fish farming.

¹⁸⁷ About 594,465.65 Euros.

¹⁸⁸ The number of partners was 97 (including, inter alia, Chérubins Hotel, Grand rolly couture, the Yaoundé Gyneco-Obstetric and Pediatric Hospital, the Dibombari District Hospital, the Local Materials Promotion Authority, Amitié Driving School, Idéal Driving School of Garoua, Salam Institute, Délice du Diamare, Musango bus services, etc.) found in 9 regions (Adamawa (19), Centre (12), East (1), Far North (22), Littoral (22), North (5), West (3), South (10), South West (6).

611- About 1,000,000 youths were registered on the National Youth Observatory platform in 2021. As at 30 June 2021, 30,000 were referred to appropriate desks for their needs and aspirations.

612- In addition, a referral centre was set up, materialised by a population's information platform on youth-related matters. The said platform was accessible through the toll-free number 1505.

§2: Matching Employment Demand

613- The Yaounde reference CMPJ offered trainings to 307 youths in various fields, including human resources management, accounting, secretarial work, computer maintenance, computer graphics, driving, construction and sewing. At the end of these trainings, the best trainees were rewarded, as was the case with Mr **Saurin Luther NOUMEDEM**, first of the 2021 batch, who received the sum of CFAF 500,000¹⁸⁹ from his school (Vocational Training Centre for Arts and Crafts), to finance his project.

SECTION 2: PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF DECENT JOBS AND REVITALISATION OF SOCIAL DIALOGUE

614- Workers' rights were protected while social dialogue and trade unions were promoted.

§1: Protection of Workers' Rights

615- Workers' rights were protected through administrative and judicial mechanisms.

A: Administrative Protection of Workers' Rights

616- To be able to assess working conditions and prevent occupational risks, 6,254 inspection visits were carried out in companies by labour inspectors. At the end of these visits, breaches of employment legislation and regulation were registered and 908 formal notices served.

617- Moreover, during the review and settlement of individual and collective work-related disputes, 7,881 conciliation reports between employers and workers were drafted.

¹⁸⁹ About 763.36 Euros.

B: Judicial Protection of Workers' Rights

618- Workers' rights continued to be guaranteed before the courts. In Judgement No. 327/SOC of 21 July 2021, the Wouri High Court (HC) ordered *Tractafric Motors Cameroun S.A* to pay the sum of CFAF 3,024,123¹⁹⁰ to Mr **BANJUN NGABO Ivan**, its employee, for wrongful dismissal. Furthermore, by Judgement No. 226/SOC of 26 May 2021, the same Court ordered *Jess Assistance Sarl* to pay the sum of CFAF 5,554,234¹⁹¹ to its employee Ms **ROUKAYATOU MAMOUDOU**, who was dismissed from the company without notification and letter of dismissal.

619- In its judgement No. 226/SOC of 26 May 2021, the same Court ordered *OLA Energy Cameroon* to pay to Mr **DAPEU Paul** the sum of 24,652,672¹⁹² as his retirement pension, as well as accrued interests for the period of January to December 2020, and to pay him monthly the sum of CFAF 3,748,032¹⁹³ with effect from 1 July 2021, as supplementary retirement pension.

620- In its Judgement No. 2/SOC of 14 June 2021, the Menoua Court of First Instance held *Express Union Finance S.A* liable for wrongful dismissal and ordered it to pay to Ms **KAYEM Marie Bruno POUOKAM** the sum of CFAF 24,064,947¹⁹⁴. The Court also ordered the company to deliver to Ms **KAYEM** a work certificate, as well as 20 original copies of payslips requested by the plaintiff. The court ordered that in case of failure to issue same, the company would pay a penalty of CFAF 1,000¹⁹⁵ per day of delay, with effect from the date of the decision.

621- It should be noted that courts registered 5,718 cases related to various labour disputes, including 5,177 filed by workers and 541 by employers. Of all these cases, 2,618 were tried, with 1,570 decisions delivered in favour of workers and 1,048 in favour of employers.

¹⁹⁰ About 4,616.98 Euros.

¹⁹¹ About 8,479.75 Euros.

¹⁹² About 37,637.67 Euros.

¹⁹³ About 5,722.19 Euros.

¹⁹⁴ About 36,740.38 Euros.

¹⁹⁵ About 1.53 Euro.

§2: Revitalisation of Social Dialogue and Trade Unionism

622- The revitalisation of social dialogue continued with the holding of the 28th and 29th Sessions of the Social Dialogue Consultation and Follow-up Committee on 22 September 2021 in Yaounde, in the presence of social partners, employers and workers. Discussions centred on the following 4 themes: *“Covid-19 and the labour world”*; *“The contribution of the Ministry of Labour and Social Security (MINTSS) to the national development strategy”*; *Assessing the implementation of social security easing measures*; and *Possible measures to curb insecurity on the Douala-Bangui road*.

623- With regard to keeping social peace, the Minister of Labour and Social Security held negotiations which resulted in the lifting of 44 strike and industrial action notices. This concerned the Cameroonian company in charge of constructing the Nachtigal dam, the company in charge of constructing the Likok-Ngaoundere road, the Drinking Water Supply Project in the city of Yaounde and its surroundings from the Sanaga River (PAE-PYS), the Cameroon oil transportation company, Union Bank of Cameroon, Bolloré Africa Logistics Cameroun and the land transport sector.

624- Moreover, on 27 October 2021, elections of Staff Representatives were held throughout the national territory, in line with Order No. 365/MINTSS of 12 October 2020 to lay down terms and conditions for the election and performance of the duties of Staff Representatives.

625- Freedom of association was equally strengthened with the registration of 12 new trade unions at MINTSS, that is 11 trade unions and one federation of trade unions. Furthermore, the headquarters of 223 trade unions were identified in 10 Regions by MINTSS trade union registry.

SECTION 3: IMPACT OF CRISES ON EMPLOYMENT AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING

626- The Covid-19 pandemic did not just hinder the creation of new jobs, but hobbled the smooth functioning of public employment services (NEF, private labour placement agencies and temporary work agencies) and active market programmes and projects, such as: the Integrated Support Project for Informal Sector (PIAASI), Urban Special Employment Programme (USEP) and the Support Programme for Rural Development (PADER).

627- The decline in public investment due to the optimal response to this pandemic led to the suspension of some investment projects, resulting in a negative impact on the employment market. Numerous jobs were lost in many sectors especially agriculture, agro-industry, mines and energy. This situation was exacerbated by the security crisis in the North West, South West and Far North Regions, which significantly affected companies' activities and reduced employment opportunities.

SECTION 4: PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF SOCIAL SECURITY

628- The promotion and protection of social security were done through the strengthening of the social security system, the payment of social security benefits, the increase of the number of persons under the social insurance scheme and the registration of employers, the assessment of companies' compliance with their social obligations, as well as through social security litigation.

§1: Strengthening the Social Security System

629- In view of strengthening the social security system, the functioning of 10 Regional Social Security Dispute Commissions and the rate of social security coverage were assessed. The aim was to define the national profile of social security on the one hand, and to identify hindrances to the good functioning of Regional Commissions for Social Security Disputes on the other hand. Following hindrances identified, corrective measures were proposed, including: the systematic capacity building of the management team of Commissions, their empowerment towards independence from the National Social Insurance Fund (NSIF), and the setting up of an information and automated data management system for cases enlisted before these Commissions.

§2: Payment of Social Benefits, Increase of the Number of insured Persons and Employers' Registrations

630- Social benefits were regularly paid and the number of insured persons and employers' registrations increased.

A: Payment of Social Benefits

631- NSIF spent CFAF 120,132,674,309¹⁹⁶ as payment of benefits for 208,424 social security contributors who themselves generated 317,431 beneficiaries all over the national territory.

632- As a matter of fact, old-age and disability pensions, as well as death benefits (PVID) represented 89.38% of these payments, while family allowances (PF) accounted for 8.59 % and occupational risks (RP) 2.02 %. The highest rate of beneficiaries fell under the PVID category with 52.69 % (114,128 beneficiaries) followed by the PF category with 45.26% (198,766 beneficiaries) and then the RP category with 2.03% (4537 beneficiaries)

B: Increase in the Number of Insured Persons and Registration of Employers

633- Some 103,124 insured persons were registered in 2021 as against 99,562 in 2020. Persons with obligatory insurance were 66,758 in 2021 as against 81,291 in 2020 and those with voluntary insurance stood at 36,366 as against 18,271 in 2020, representing an increase of 99.03 %. Moreover, 6,164 employers were newly registered.

§3: Following-up Employers' Compliance with their Social Obligations

634- Several Employers complied with their social obligations toward their employees, while others were sanctioned for violating those obligations.

A: Employers' Compliance with their Social Obligations

635- Compliance was observed with regard to online declaration and payment of social contributions.

636- Concerning online declaration, 26,266 out of the 36,564 expected active employers fulfilled that formality, for an overall achievement rate of 71.84 %. The State carried out 57,652 controls to identify new employers and clean the active employers' register, among other things.

637- Regarding the payment of social security contributions, about 11,026 employers were in good standing with regard to the payment of social se-

¹⁹⁶ About 183,408,663.07 Euros.

curity contributions for their employees. Social security contributions recovered amounted to CFAF 196,700,000,000¹⁹⁷, representing an increase of CFAF 8,300,000,000¹⁹⁸ with regard to 2020.

B: Sanctions Imposed on Defaulting Employers

638- About 22,382 employers were late in paying social security contributions to their employees, representing a total of 89,811 debt securities, amounting to CFAF 222,842,423,102¹⁹⁹ recovered.

639- In addition to the surcharges and penalties for late payment automatically generated in case of non-compliance with obligations to declare and pay, actions for forced recovery were taken against employers concerned.

640- For the most recalcitrant employers, NSIF initiated criminal proceedings before courts, such as the Special Criminal Court, for embezzlement of public funds. Evidence was put at the disposal of a special corps of judicial police officers against 2 employers²⁰⁰, the cumulated social security contribution debt which amounted to CFAF 2,000,000,000²⁰¹.

¹⁹⁷ About 300,305,343.51 Euros.

¹⁹⁸ About 12,671,755.72 Euros.

¹⁹⁹ About 340,217,439.85 Euros.

²⁰⁰ For the first employer, whose debt amounted to CFAF 1,000,000,000, NSIF provided control reports and formal notices sent to him before the institution of criminal proceedings, which he did not contest before competent courts within the time limits prescribed by law. Instead, the employer filed actions contesting same before ordinary law courts hearing civil and commercial matters, which were not competent to hear disputes on the recovery of social security contributions. The courts seized, namely the CFI Fundong and the North West Court of Appeal, declared themselves competent to hear the case and cancelled the social security contribution debt with the NSIF. NSIF lodged an appeal before the Supreme Court which annulled the North West Court of Appeal's ruling. This employer declared before the Special Criminal Court that the decisions of the CFI Fundong and North West Court of Appeal cancelling the social security contribution debt were in his favour and declared that NSIF did not have reasonable grounds to file a case against him before a criminal court, namely the SCC. The Supreme Court Ruling was presented before the SCC. NSIF had evidence of the said embezzlement, characterised by the non-payment by this employer of social security contributions collected from workers' salaries.

As for the 2nd employer who was also prosecuted for embezzlement of the sum of CFAF 1,000,000,000, the situation was different. The employer had been reported by employees before the SCC which requested the NSIF to produce evidence establishing the social security contribution debt. NSIF provided control reports and formal notices before prosecution which revealed that the said employer had accumulated the debt for several decades.

²⁰¹ About 3,053,435.11 Euros.

§4: Social Security Disputes

641- Cases of social security focused on the recovery of social security contributions and payment of the social security benefits.

A: Disputes over the Recovery of Social Security Contributions

642- The pre-litigation phase for the recovery of social security contributions preceded the litigation phase before Administrative Courts.

1) Pre-Litigation Phase

643- A total of 39 non-contentious files were introduced before the pre-litigation petition Committee of the NSIF Board of Directors by employers contesting NSIF recovery instruments in 2021. Of these appeals, 5 were reopened and reconsidered²⁰² in the course of examining the case and 34 were implicitly in favour of NSIF.

2) Litigation Phase before Administrative Courts

644- Some 39 cases were filed before Administrative Courts by employers to challenge instruments for the recovery of social security contributions. Of all cases filed, 17 final decisions were delivered, including 12 in favour of NSIF, 4 in favour of applicants and 1 in favour of each party.

645- Moreso, employers who were dissatisfied with those judgements filed appeals before the Administrative Bench of the Supreme Court, which after hearing the cases, rendered 3 decisions in favour of NSIF.

B: Disputes relating to Social Security Benefits

646- There were many disputes relating to social security benefits in 2021 and most files introduced by insured persons concerned PVID. The said files first went through the pre-litigation stage and some proceeded to the litigation phase.

647- The pre-litigation petition Committee of the NSIF Board of Directors received 296 petitions, for which decisions were rendered, including 244 in favour of NSIF and 52 in favour of insured persons.

²⁰² These resummptions of controls resulted from NSIF's decisions to have its authorized and sworn controllers cancel or modify some employers' control procedures for which it was established, after verification, that the legal controllers did not respect the law during their controls.

648- Moreover, Regional Social Security Disputes Commissions sitting at the headquarters of the 10 regions ruled on social security disputes initiated by insured persons in 2021. Out of the 187 cases enlisted and regularly heard by the said Commissions, 52 were disposed of, 14 struck off the list, 29 decisions rendered in favour of NSIF and 9 in favour of insured persons.

649- Insured persons seized Courts of Appeals challenging decisions rendered by Regional Social Security Disputes Commissions related to social security benefits. The courts heard the appeals and rendered 10 decisions, including 6 in favour of NSIF and 4 in favour of the petitioners. Nevertheless, 33 cases were pending before the said courts by the end of the year.

650- In addition, none of the 5 appeals lodged at the Supreme Court had been heard.

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651- The right to work and to social security was affected in 2021 by health and security crises which led to a slowdown of job generating economic activities. This situation equally resulted in the reduction of the number of employees in companies, and by extension the increase of the unemployment rate. Challenges remain, namely with regard to revitalising the economic fabric which will contribute to raising the employment rate.

652- Despite these challenges, the Government continued its actions to sustain employment and protect workers' rights.

CHAPTER

5

**RIGHT TO CULTURE
AND LEISURE**

653- In 2021, the Government continued its efforts to ensure the availability of cultural goods, accessibility to cultural services and the protection of the moral and material interests of cultural actors. There was a great leap forward with the promulgation of a Law governing the organization and promotion of the book sector. The promotion and development of tourism and leisure was pursued particularly through increasing infrastructure and ensuring Cameroon as a tourist destination.

654- The guarantee of the right to culture and leisure was done amid preparations for the AFCON TotalEnergies 2021.

SECTION 1: AVAILABILITY OF CULTURAL GOODS

655- More infrastructure were made available and the preservation of cultural goods pursued.

§1: Enhanced Cultural Infrastructure

656- The number of sporting infrastructure was increased and others rehabilitated in view of AFCON TotalEnergies 2021. This included the Olembe Sports Complex Yaounde (60,000 places), Japoma Sports Complex in Douala (50,000 places), Roumde Adjia Stadium of Garoua (40,000 places), Kuekong stadium and Limbe Omnisport Stadium (20,000 places).

657- Furthermore, at the National Museum, the construction of the *salle de convivialité*, the art galleries and shops for various artistic objects was completed. The Centre Regional Museum was also rehabilitated and now serves for the exhibition of cultural values.

§2: Preservation of Cultural Goods

658- Due to impending risks, preemptive measures were taken. Progress was also made as concerns registration on the world heritage site list.

A: Preventive Conservation of Cultural Heritage from impending risks

659- Bad weather, fires, theft of cultural goods and security crisis²⁰³ like the ones in the Far North, North West and South West Regions put cul-

²⁰³ For example, on 24 September 2021, the Royal Palace of Bafut was looted and several precious artifacts, including a bronze mask taken away.

tural heritage at risk in areas of conflict. Thus such heritage had to be protected. It is in line with this, that in collaboration with UNESCO, within the framework of the pilot project *“Emergency assessment and urgent interventions at cultural heritage sites, museums and collections at risk in the North West, South West and Far North Regions of Cameroon”*, a workshop was organised in Douala on 13 April 2021 on preventive conservation of museums and collections as well as emergency aid to cultural heritage in times of crisis. On 29 and 30 July 2021, the International Centre for Research and Documentation on African Traditions and Languages (CERDOTOLA)²⁰⁴ hosted an International Conference on conservation and preservation of documentary heritage in Central Africa, pillars of reconciliation and peace building. Librarians and archivists, as well as others working in heritage management from Cameroon and some other Central African countries discussed about documentary heritage conservation and preservation, especially in conflict and post-conflict zones.

B: Visibility through the Preservation of Heritage Sites

660- As part of the Government’s lobbying for a good number of sites to be included on UNESCO’s world heritage site list, so as to protect them for future generations to appreciate and enjoy, efforts were intensified to have the Bimbia Slave Trade Village included on the said list. In this connection, 15 national and international experts in cultural heritage sites started picking up necessary elements to build the file for UNESCO’s recognition, starting on 25 April 2021 and running for one week.

661- The eventual enrolment of the Bimbia Slave Trade Village²⁰⁵ on the UNESCO World Heritage list will add to the Dja Faunal Reserve, inscribed in 1987 and the *Trinational de la Sangha* inscribed in 2012.

SECTION 2: ACCESSIBILITY TO CULTURAL SERVICES

662- Even though some cultural events such as the Patrimonial Music and Dance Festival (*FESMUDAP*) and RECAN were cancelled because of the

²⁰⁴ The conference was organized in collaboration with the International Federation of Library Associations and the Cameroon Association of Librarians, Archivists, Documentalists and Museum Curators (ABADCAM) and financed by UNESCO.

²⁰⁵ In addition to the Bimbia slave village, there are 21 other cultural and natural properties on the tentative heritage list.

covid-19 pandemic, people had access to some cultural events including festivals, exhibitions and award giving ceremonies, which were a means of experiencing firsthand the diverse offerings of culture. Subventions were also granted for diverse cultural sectors.

§1: Organisation of Festivals and Exhibitions

663- In April 2021, a 4 day festival named, Cameroon International Film Festival (CAMIFF) was organised in Buea with the support of UNESCO. The festival which had as one of its objectives, showcasing the wealth of talents in Cameroon, especially in the North West and South West Regions brought together actresses and actors, musicians, filmmakers, film critics, buyers and distributors who learned various aspects of culture for development and culture for peace through cinema master classes and took part in social activities for peace and unity. One of the results of the festival was the development of a roadmap for individual and collective development of the music industry, and the key role of artists in peace building and recovery of the North West and South West Regions through the music culture.

664- The 25th edition of the international film festival *Ecrans Noirs* which is a festival that valorises African films was celebrated under the theme “Cinema, a profitable and liberating Art” in Douala and Yaounde between 17 and 27 November 2021. Activities included workshops and screening of films in competition. Winners were awarded prizes on the last day of the festival, in various categories including one for the best Cameroonian film.

665- Some other festivals included: the 8th edition of the *International First Film Week* held from 30 October to 7 November 2021 in Yaounde during which the best films received awards; *Festival Mboa BD* from 17 to 20 November 2021 in Yaounde which was aimed at promoting comics from Cameroon and beyond; the 10th edition of the Douala Music’ Art Festival from 25 to 28 November 2021 during which there were musical shows, dances and arts exhibition.

666- Moreover, as part of commemorative activities for the *International Museum Day*, observed every May 18, the Douala City Council organized an exhibition of various works of arts from 8 May to 5 June 2021. On 18 May 2021, the staff of the said Council visited the Douala Maritime Museum wherein the navigation simulator as well as objects, photos and maps

of Cameroon's maritime and port history are exhibited. This was followed by a panel discussion on "the Impact of the Museum on its Environment: Case of the Douala Maritime Museum in the city of Douala".

667- Also, the exhibition *Voyage dans le passé* (Journey in the Past) in Yaounde in December 2021 was organised in prelude to the AF-CON TotalEnergies 2021. Some 500 pieces of Cameroonian primitive art were exhibited consisting among others of kitchen utensils, hunting weapons and sculpture.

668- Moreover, the 2021 Centre Regional School Art and Culture Festival was organised by *Concertation des encadrateurs du reseau des formateurs en arts et cultures* under the theme, "Reawakening the Spirit of Arts in Schools"²⁰⁶ at Lycée General Leclerc from 24 March to 7 April 2021. Some 12 colleges competed in the areas of performing arts, fine arts and music education.

§2: Subventions

669- Subventions granted by Government included CFAF16,000,000²⁰⁷ for the creation, promotion and dissemination of Cameroonian cultural works; CFAF14,100,000²⁰⁸ for Support to the creation, publication and distribution of musical works and CFAF1,000,000²⁰⁹ for events relating to literary works.

SECTION 3: REFORM OF THE BOOK SECTOR

670- The legal framework of the right to culture was strengthened through Law No. 2021/24 of 16 December 2021 governing the organization and promotion of the book sector in Cameroon. Prior to this, there was no legislation on the book sector.

§1: Context and Justification of the Reform

671- The book sector in Cameroon had been facing certain difficulties, including the low production of quality books locally, the absence of a real national book industry, the rise of counterfeiting of books, and the lack of professionalization among stakeholders.

²⁰⁶ The theme was chosen considering the fact that due to covid-19 art activities slowed down in schools.

²⁰⁷ About 24, 427. 48 Euros.

²⁰⁸ About 21, 526.71 Euros.

²⁰⁹ About 1, 526.71 Euros.

672- With regard specifically to Textbooks and Manuals, a number of unorthodox practices were observed, including corruption, conflicts of interest, insider trading labelled against textbook evaluation bodies, anarchic changes in the books on the syllabus, and the plethora of textbooks selected for a single subject. Availability and accessibility of books was also of concern.

673- In view of all these challenges, a reform of the book sector was imperative.

§2: Highlights of the Reform

674- The afore-mentioned Law lays down the structuring of the book sector, regulates interactions between stakeholders and establishes incentives for the development and professionalization of the sector including encouraging cultural diversity in the sector as well as the local printing and publishing of books. It applies to books which, are intellectual works considered as cultural and/or economic goods, school textbooks and manuals which are tools for pedagogical transmission of academic knowledge.

675- As concerns organisation, the book sector shall be structured around 7 areas which are writing, publishing, printing, publicity, distribution, sale and in-library consultation.

676- The Law defines the roles of various actors and emphasises on the apolitical nature of schools, the professionalization of teaching and the promotion of inclusive education for learners living with disabilities, a single textbook by discipline for at least 3 years, the preference for Cameroonian operators as much as possible in the sector and the free provision by the State of essential textbooks²¹⁰ in public primary education, with priority given to the Priority Education Zones. The Law also includes measures to make books accessible.

677- Furthermore, the Law provides that school textbooks and manuals not included on the official lists of school textbooks shall not be imposed on students, nor used against them during official assessments and examinations.

²¹⁰ These books include for the Francophone sub-system: French, English, Mathematics, Citizenship education and Information and Communication Technologies; for the Anglophone sub-system: English language, French language, Mathematics, Citizenship education, Information and Communication Technologies.

678- Concerning penal sanctions, whoever sells school textbooks and manuals on school premises shall be punished with imprisonment of from 1 to 5 years and fine of from CFAF1,000,000 to CFAF5,000,000²¹¹. Additionally, whoever counterfeits or sells counterfeit school textbooks and manuals shall be punished with imprisonment of from 5 to 10 years or fine of from CFAF5,000,000 to CFAF10,000,000²¹² or both such imprisonment and fine.

SECTION 4: PROTECTION OF THE MORAL AND MATERIAL INTERESTS OF CULTURAL ACTORS

679- Measures were taken for the collection and distribution of royalties of artists and some of them received awards.

§1: Royalties of Artists

680- The Minister of Arts and Culture signed Decisions No. 21/0001MI-NAC/CCCOG of 16 February 2021, to determine the conditions for securing funds collected as part of copyright and neighbouring rights. MINAC provided technical assistance to Collective Management Bodies (SONACAM, SOCADAP, SOCILADRA, SCAAP and SCDV) with regard to their functioning and collection from users, sums due for copyright and neighbouring rights. The table below illustrates the repartition of sums collected for copyright and neighbouring rights.

Management Body	Total amount collected (in CFAF)	Amount distributed to artists (in CFAF)	Amount deducted as operating budget (in CFAF)
SONACAM	140,892,840	112 714,272 ²¹³	28, 178, 568
SOCILADRA	47,473,977	30,858,085	16, 615,892
SCAAP	56,256,776	36,566,904	19,689,872
SOCADAP	10,762,283	6,995,484	3,766,799
SCDV	68,419,332	54,735,466	13,683,866

SOURCE: MINAC

681- A partnership Agreement was signed on 8 December 2021 between the *Groupeement Inter-patronal du Cameroun (GICAM)* and Collective Man-

²¹¹ About 7,633.59 Euros.

²¹² About 15,267.18 Euros.

²¹³ This sum collected from users for the exploitation of the works of artists during 2019 and 2020 was for 1,483 artists.

agement of copyright and neighbouring rights bodies, the main areas of collaboration of which include the sensitisation and the training of companies on copyrights and the neighboring rights and the payment of the royalties related thereto. The 2 parties also intend to establish a framework of reflection for the promotion of the cultural industry in Cameroon.

§2: Awards

682- The 13th edition of the *Canal 2'Or Award* by the Cameroonian television channel *Canal 2 International* was held on 30 October 2021 in Douala. It rewarded the best musicians and cultural actors of Cameroon and Central Africa.

683- Furthermore, **Brice TADÉ TANGO**, a Cameroonian won the global comic and cartoon competition titled, «*Génération égalité: Imaginez-la*²¹⁴», which saw the participation of 1,200 young artists from more than 120 countries.

SECTION 5: PROMOTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF TOURISM AND LEISURE

684- Measures were taken in view of ensuring that Cameroon is a tourist destination. The availability of tourism and leisure infrastructure as well as monitoring tourism and leisure sectors were guaranteed.

§1: Activities to improve the Visibility of Tourism Potentials

685- As in the past years, activities were carried out in view of promoting Cameroon as a tourist destination. These included showcasing the tourism potential of the country at events as well as production and distribution of promotional material.

A: Participation at Events

686- MINTOUL participated in events including the “2021 Youth Village” at the National museum in Yaounde in February 2021, the celebration of the International Day of Tourist Guides from 19 to 21 February 2021 at the Yaounde City Council Hall, the cycle tour called “*Sur la route des chefferies de l'Ouest*” from 25 to 28 February 2021 in the West Region and the 10th edition of the Government Action Fair (SAGO), held in Yaounde

²¹⁴ The competition was organized by UN Women, the European Commission, in partnership with Cartooning for Peace to mark the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

from 25 to 30 July 2021. At these events, MINTOUL informed the public of its activities and distributed posters and promotional leaflets on tourism.

687- MINTOUL also commemorated the World Day of Responsible Tourism on 2 June 2021 and set up tourist information stands in railway stations and airports.

B: Production and Distribution of Promotional Material

688- Promotional materials including tourist guides for the 10 regions, posters on which is written *"toute l'Afrique dans un pays"* (All of Africa in one country), gadgets with the inscription "tourism and leisure in Cameroon" and leaflets labelled *"Cameroon, a tourist destination"* were distributed at fairs and festivals in the country and also placed at Tourist Information Stands at airports and railway stations. Such promotional material was also available at Cameroon's Tourist Information Offices in Europe, Asia and the Americas.

689- The digital communication and marketing strategy included the dissemination of promotional material on digital platforms as well as the MINTOUL website at www.mintoul.gov.cm. An electronic platform *"Visit Cameroon with Me"* was also available on social media like Facebook, Instagram, and TikTok.

C: Activities in the Context of AFCON TotalEnergies 2021

690- An extraordinary session of the National Tourism Board chaired by the Prime Minister was held on 22 July 2021 to brainstorm on strategies to promote tourism and leisure activities during the AFCON TotalEnergies 2021 and promote Cameroon as a tourist destination. Discussions centred on speeding up the development of infrastructure and upgrading existing ones as well as beautifying towns hosting matches.

691- In prelude to AFCON TotalEnergies 2021, the Minister of Urban Development and Housing launched the operation Clean Cities in Yaounde, Douala, Bafoussam, Limbe and Garoua to make these cities more attractive.

692- In the context of the tourism marketing strategy of AFCON TotalEnergies 2021, the start-up NchimsyTeq developed *TourCMR*, Cameroon's first bilingual travel guide App which was approved and launched by MINTOUL on 2 November 2021 as the official travel guide

App for this sports event. *TourCMR* which is downloadable on the Google play store and Apple Store platforms, provides information about Cameroon and its tourist attractions. More than 145 tourist sites in Cameroon classified by location can be accessed.

693- On 28 August 2021 an agreement was entered into between MINTOUL and the Cameroon Radio Television (CRTV) for the coproduction and broadcasting of micro TV programmes and mini-documentaries to promote Cameroon as a tourist destination. Some 15 micro programmes called Safari were produced, (some 7 minutes long and others 5 minutes long). Some 10 documentaries (each 26 minutes long) were produced (5 in English and 5 in French) which focused on the towns hosting AFCON matches. Broadcast of these micro TV programmes and documentaries started in December 2021.

§2: Availability of Tourism and Leisure Infrastructure

694- A total of 10 sessions of the National Technical Commission for Tourism Establishments were held during which authorisations were granted relating to tourism and leisure infrastructure.

695- Authorisations were granted for the construction and operation of 286 hotels. Some 21 restaurants and 45 leisure establishments received authorisations to operate. In addition, 12 Tourist Agencies and 13 tourist guides were licensed to operate.

696- In the context of the organisation of the AFCON TotalEnergies 2021, a lodging facility with 22 rooms and a junior suite was built at the *Centre d'accueil* in Kribi, rehabilitation and extension works were carried out at *Hôtel de la Bénoué* while *Hôtel Ribadou* was constructed and equipped in Garoua. Some High standing Hotels were refurbished and others went operational among which Shalom Hotel in Garoua, Star Land Hotel, United Hotel and Mundi Hotel in Yaounde, Relax Hotel in Nkometou, Best Western Hotel and Krystal Palace Hotel in Douala and *Hôtel La Vallée de Bana* (West Region).

§3: Strengthening the Capacity of Stakeholders of the Tourism and Leisure Sector

697- As part of the promotion of the culture of healthy and educational leisure, prior to the holding of youth summer camps in Melong in the Lit-

toral Region in July 2021 and Basheo in the North Region in August 2021, MINTOUL organised a workshop to strengthen the capacity of 50 leisure instructors for a better supervision of youths.

698- Moreover, on 20 and 21 December 2021, a validation workshop was organised in Yaounde on harmonized vocational training programmes in tourism, hotel and leisure. The workshop was attended by officials of MINESEC, MINESUP, MINEFOP and promoters of vocational training centres in the 10 regions in the area of tourism, hospitality and leisure.

§4: Monitoring of the Tourism and Leisure Sector

699- Inspection of tourism and leisure establishments was carried out. To this end, 770 establishments were inspected in the Centre, West and South Regions. Some of the establishments found wanting were closed while others were fined.

700- Furthermore, in collaboration with MINMIDT, MINEPDED and MIN-COMMERCE, MINTOUL organised joint inspections of 64 tourist establishments in the Centre Region between November and December 2021.

701- Additionally, an anti-Covid-19 health protocol for promoters of the tourism and leisure sector was developed following guidelines issued by WHO, the World Trade Organization and governmental measures that were popularized. The certification of Covid-19 Clean hotels was done through the affixing of Covid clean QR (Quick Response) code signs. Some 400 QR codes were affixed.

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702- The Law on the organization and promotion of the book sector was a major highlight as regards the right to culture. Pre-emptive measures for the preservation of cultural goods due to impending risks were taken. Moreover, there was an increase in the quantity and quality of tourism infrastructure. Actions were taken in view of making the country a tourist destination especially within the context of the organisation of AFCON TotalEnergies 2021 including through digital communication and marketing. However, some activities were cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

CHAPTER

6

**RIGHT TO A HEALTHY
ENVIRONMENT**

703- As with previous years, Cameroon implemented a plethora of actions towards protecting the environment, which is perpetually threatened by human activity and/or natural phenomena. These actions, which were resilient to the Covid-19 pandemic, essentially focused on the normative framework, the fight against climate change, desertification and sustainable management of biodiversity, the fight against pollution, nuisance and harmful and/or dangerous chemical substances and environmental and wild-life litigation.

SECTION 1: STRENGTHENING THE NORMATIVE FRAMEWORK

704- By Decree No. 2021/754 of 28 December 2021, Cameroon ratified the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes which was adopted on 17 March 1992 in Helsinki. Following Decree No. 2021/780 of 28 December 2021, it also ratified the Agreement on the establishment of the International Network for Bamboo and Rattan, adopted in Beijing on 6 November 1997. One of the State's major innovations was the adoption of Law No. 2021/14 of 9 July 2021 to govern access to genetic resources, their derivatives, traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from their utilisation. This law sets out conditions of access and exploitation of resources by both the people and operators.

705- Cameroon also adopted Law No. 2021/24 of 16 December 2021 governing the organisation and promotion of the book sector in Cameroon, one aspect of which concerns pollution. Indeed, Section 16 provides that: *"Printing of books shall be conducted under environmentally friendly conditions during both production and waste management"*. Section 46 adds that: *"The State shall encourage the development of a green economy for the production of school textbooks and manuals."*

SECTION 2: FIGHT AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE, DESERTIFICATION AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF BIODIVERSITY

706- Government carried out measures as concerns the fight against climate change, reforestation and biodiversity management.

§1: Fight against Climate Change

707- The fight against climate change continued in 2021 with the finalisation of Cameroon's preparatory phase for the Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) process. This was done through participation in the meeting to prepare Cameroon's Expression of Interest in the Lowering Emissions by Accelerating Forest Finance (LEAF) Coalition; the holding of a consultation meeting between the Government and the World Bank on the release of additional funds; publication by the Ministry of Environment, Nature Protection and Sustainable Development (MINEPDED), on 7 January 2021, of the Executive Summary on the progress of the REDD+ process; the holding of the consultation meeting of the stakeholders of the REDD+ process in Cameroon on 21 January 2021; the organisation of the 9th and 10th Ordinary Sessions of the Steering Committee of the REDD+ process on 18 February 2021 and participation in the 30th Participants Committee (PC30) and 14th Participants Assembly (PA14) of the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) from 14 to 17 December 2021.

708- Cameroon adopted the reference and monitoring compass for forest cover and carbon, which is a strategic document produced by the National Observatory on Climate Change (ONACC), under MINEPDED.

709- The technical assessment of activities carried out by ONACC is summarised as follows: the production and publication of a climate report for the year 2020; the finalisation of the study for the modelling of climate change impact on development sectors; the finalisation and publication of the study for the adjustment of specific climate calendars for socio-economic activities; the production of an inventory report on greenhouse gas emissions from the agriculture, forestry and other land use sector, as well as the inventory report on greenhouse gas emissions from the energy sector; publishing, presentation and distribution of the Atlas of forest cover losses in Cameroon from 2000 to 2017; the publication and dissemination of 4 seasonal newsletters of climate parameters forecasts for the 5 agro-ecological zones; the publishing and dissemination of 36 decadal climate forecasts and alert newsletters; the realisation of the study to define climate indicators and the realisation of the study to map national assets threatened by climate change.

710- When reviewing its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), the Government committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 35% by 2030. Four information-sharing meetings were organised for the mastery of the NDC by administrations concerned, technical and financial partners and CSOs. This is the case of the sub-regional workshop held in Douala from 9 to 13 March 2021 on the follow-up of the revision of the NDCs of Central African countries. The workshop was funded by GIZ and organised by the Government and the Executive Secretariat of the Commission of Central African Forests (COMIFAC). At the end of the workshop, several recommendations were made²¹⁵.

711- Furthermore, Government launched a project²¹⁶ dubbed *Strengthening the resilience of coastal populations of the Wouri estuary to the effects of climate change* on 29 June 2021 in Douala. This 3-year project aims to improve the socio-economic resilience of the coastal populations of the wouri river estuary who are regularly confronted with erosion, flooding and marine submersion, by promoting the development of field knowledge and generating decision support mapping tools. It also aims to strengthen local knowledge and capacity by raising awareness and training local communities on the impact of climate change.

712- The Government and its partners disbursed about CFAF 100,000,000²¹⁷ for the acquisition of more than 111 equipment to support the cold sector in the reduction of ozone-depleting effects. Some of this equipment was handed over to public administrations, private operators and training institutions such as universities, on 16 September 2021 in Douala, on the occasion of the 34th edition of the International Day for the Protection of the Ozone Layer.

²¹⁵ These include: the launching of the Project Preparation Grant (PPG) of the Capacity-Building Initiative in Transparency (CBIT); the conduct of the NDC gap assessment study; the adoption of a framework for the development of a climate action plan for the implementation of the NDC; the proposal of a fund mobilisation plan; the completion of the study on the modelling of greenhouse gas emissions for various scenarios (business-as-usual, with measures, with additional measures) of emissions by target sector (Agriculture, Waste, Energy) and the revision of the NDC.

²¹⁶ This is a partnership between the universities of Quebec in Rimouski and Laval (Canada), the University of Douala and the NGO *Actions pour la biodiversité et la gestion des terroirs*.

²¹⁷ About 152,671.75 Euros.

§2: Fight against desertification

713- Government set up urban forests in swampy areas in the city of Yaounde. The swamp located below the place called “carrefour 3 statues” was transformed into an urban forest by the Yaounde City Council. Work began at the site in December 2020 and was completed in 2021. It is a municipal arboretum which contains a collection of species that exist in the city of Yaounde. For example, there are sapelis, bubinga, acacias and eucalyptus. Furthermore, an urban forest was created in the Ekounou neighbourhood where a swamp was replaced by young eucalyptus plants. The same is true of the Yaounde 7th sub-division, where swampy slopes were replaced by urban forest.

714- The continued activities of the Operation Green Sahel (*Sahel Vert*) project led to the restoration of 500 ha (2 sites of 250 ha) of degraded land in the Diamare Division with 60,000 seedlings planted. These 2 sites consisting of Badjiwal in the Bogo Council and Gawel 3 in the Ndoukoula Council were secured by 6 permanent guards and barbed wire fences. Awareness-raising activities were carried out for mayors and the population on the challenges of restoring and sustainably managing wood resources. Some 400 trees were planted in the Douala 4 Subdivision on 5 June 2021 to commemorate the 49th World Environment Day under the theme “Restoring ecosystems”.

715- As concerns the Interregional Committee for Drought Control in the North (CILSN), the main outputs included the production of 317,635 seedlings, 258,509 of which were distributed to schools, councils, communities, individuals and development partners, for the reforestation of an estimated area of 710 ha²¹⁸. The Committee also monitored the reforestation of the banks of Lake Lagdo as part of the Study Missions for the Development of the North Region (MEADEN-CILSN) Agreement. The survival rate of plants in this reforestation initiative was estimated at 71%. The Committee also rehabilitated 2 agro-pastoral ponds in Poudiri in the Kaele Sub-Division. A document to raise awareness of RLAs on the missions and activities of the CILSN, as well as on axes of collaboration were produced and distributed to all the councils in its area of competence.

716- As for the Benue Watershed Management Project, the sites reforested in 2019 were situated in 4 councils (Pitoea, Ngong, Garoua II, Garoua III).

²¹⁸ 157 of which were reforested directly by the Committee.

717- In addition, 12 nurseries were set up and more than 105,042 seedlings were produced, including 46,982 bamboos, 54,060 non-timber forest products (NTFPs) and 4,000 mangroves in the 3 areas concerned by the Project. Some 249.75 ha of bamboo and NTFPs were established (67.68 ha in Douala-Edea, 109.99 ha in Mbalmayo and 72.08ha in Waza), consisting of 156.08 ha of degraded agricultural land, 44.67 ha of degraded forest and land, 4 ha of restored mangrove, 45 ha following improved practices with at least 150 local stakeholders involved.

718- The Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife (MINFOF) prepared, published and multiplied the Agroforestry booklet. It also organised training workshops²¹⁹ for 250 persons on the use of the agroforestry booklet. These training workshops were a continuation of a MINFOF awareness-raising activity that started in November 2019.

719- Regarding sites of forcibly displaced persons, a nursery of 42,000 plants was prepared and 28,950 sparse seedlings planted at the Mina-wao site for Nigerian Refugees and in the IDPs sites of OuroTada, Zamai, Mogode and Koza.

§3: Sustainable Management of Biodiversity

720- Management was done both in the environmental and forestry sectors.

A: Environment Sector

721- Government activities in biodiversity management focused mainly on awareness-raising, information and training; environmental assessment; conservation and restoration of ecosystems and other actions.

1) Awareness-raising, Information and Training

722- As part of efforts to intensify environmental awareness, the following activities were carried out: Awareness-raising for people living along the banks of river Benue in the context of the Benue Watershed Management Project and the Bamboo Pilot Project against bush fires and abusive wood cutting; awareness raising and training of some locally elected officials and 12 council executives charged with the environment in the Far North

²¹⁹ Like the one organised in Douala from 28 to 29 June 2021 for 70 participants, and the one organised in Mbankomo in August 2021 for 65 participants.

Region on the management of resources transferred to councils by MINEPDED as part of the *Sahel Vert* in the Diamare and Mayo-Danay Divisions.

723- With regard to the development and dissemination of environmental information, 8 thematic databases were made available in the Environmental Information System (EIS).

724- As concerns training, the following actions were carried out: training of 342 persons on restoration techniques through Bamboo Value Chain and other non-timber forest products (NTFPs); support to at least 109 farmers through nurseries; a report was prepared on the Restoration Opportunity Assessment Methodology (ROAM²²⁰) in the landscapes of Mbal-mayo, Douala-Edea and Waza; a Harmonized Plan of Action (2020-2030) for the restoration of degraded forest lands and landscapes in Cameroon was adopted; a market research report was prepared on NTFPs; a Monitoring and Evaluation document of the TRI project was prepared and a Policy Influence Plan (PIP) and Policy and Scientific Notes were adopted.

2) Environmental Assessment

725- Environmental assessments were reinforced in particular by: the organisation of 23 public hearings for environmental and social impact studies and audits; the receipt and processing of 182 Terms of Reference for environmental and social impact studies and audits; the processing of files relating to public consultation programmes within the framework of the conduct of environmental and social impact audit and studies; the preparation and holding of 12 meetings of the Inter-ministerial Committee on the Environment; the evaluation of 108 reports submitted for examination to the Inter-ministerial Committee on the Environment (CIE); the issuing of 93 Environmental Compliance Certificates (ECC) and 17 approvals of consultancy firms; the carrying out of 12 monitoring and diagnostic missions on the implementation status of the Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMPs); the reception and processing of 25 applications for Attestation of Compliance with Environmental Obligations (AROE), resulting in the issuance of 20 AROEs; the reorganisation of information relating to the ESMPs posted online in the application for digitising and posting of ESMPs online.

²²⁰ Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology (ROAM)

3) Ecosystem Conservation and Restoration

726- Within the framework of the promotion of the conservation and restoration of mangrove ecosystems, CFAF 3,500,000²²¹ of revenue generated by the Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) mechanism was transferred to the Special Allocation Account (SAA) for the Environment and Sustainable Development and accounted for by the mechanisms laid down in the management of public finances. Also, at least 10% of thematic databases were centralised in the Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Information System (BES), set up in 2021.

727- The restoration of the biodiversity of the banks of the benue river through the use of bamboo species in the localities of Pitoa, Lagdo, Garoua II and Garoua III (pilot phase) continued with the transfer of powers to these councils.

728- The implementation of the Supporting Landscapes Restoration and Sustainable Use of Local Plant Species and Tree Products (Bambusa spp, Irvingia spp, etc) for Biodiversity Conservation, Sustainable Livelihoods and Emissions Reduction in Cameroon (TRI²²² Project) continued through the establishment of 12 nurseries with more than 105,042 plants including 46,982 bamboo, 54,060 NTFPs and 4,000 mangroves in three project areas (Waza, Mbalmayo and Douala-Edea); the establishment of 249,75 ha of bamboo and NTFPs (67,68 ha in Douala-Edea, 109,99 ha in Mbalmayo and 72,08 ha in Waza), divided into 156,08 ha of degraded agricultural land, 44,67 ha of degraded forests and soils, 4 ha of restored mangroves (45 ha through improved practices) with at least 150 local stakeholders involved.

4) Other Actions on Biodiversity

729- These actions included the signing on 21 July 2021 in Yaounde, of 2 contracts on Mutually Agreed Terms (MAT) between the Pimbo community (Ngambe Council in the Littoral Region) and the Swiss company Firmenich S.A. The 2 agreements concerned research for the exploitation and marketing of 2 specific genetic resources: *Aframomum* spp (*mbongobako*) and *Fagara* spp (*HiomiMatam*).

²²¹ About 5,343.51 Euros.

²²²The Restoration Initiative.

730- In addition, the development and institution of a national monitoring and control system for Modified Living Organisms (MLOs) and Invasive Alien Species(IAS) facilitated the establishment of the Biosafety Project in Cameroon. This resulted in the identification of 165 MLOs and one IAS.

B: Forestry Sector

731- On 25 June 2021, MINFOF and the *Tikki* Hywood Foundation (an organisation devoted to safeguarding pangolins), signed an agreement in Yaounde to ensure the protection of this animal species. The pangolin rehabilitation centre located in the Mefou National Park in the Mefou and Afamba Division aims to ensure the survival of this species, endangered by poachers.

732- From 28 to 30 September 2021, a regional technical validation workshop was held in Douala aimed at contributing to the revision of the set of principles, criteria and indicators (PC&I) harmonised by the African Timber Organisation and the International Tropical Timber Organisation (ITTO).

732-1- The workshop brought together 30 participants, including representatives of Government forestry departments of ITTO member countries, civil society and representatives of the private sector. At the end of the workshop, it was recommended that ITTO member countries should systematically assess the implementation of sustainable forest management using the new ITTO criteria and indicators for the sustainable management of African tropical forests and report on progress achieved. It was also recommended that member countries should provide incentives to forestry companies that were identified as having adopted sustainable forest management, based on audits conducted using ITTO's Criteria and Indicators.

733- Furthermore, within the framework of relations between Cameroon and Chad, workshops were organised by the Government on the protected areas of Bouba-Ndjidda and Sena-Oura, including; the strategic reflection workshop on the creation of an interface between the Bouba-Ndjidda National Park and the Garoua Zoological Garden, held in Maroua from 7 to 9 June 2021; the harmonisation and follow-up workshop on the Ndjamena Declaration on transhumance and the preservation of the Sena-Oura-Bouba Ndjidda ecological sites, held in Douala from 14 to 15 July 2021 and attended by experts from Chad and Cameroon. The objective

of this workshop co-organised with GIZ in support of COMIFAC, was to enable the 2 countries better collaborate in the binational management of the Sena-Oura-Bouba Ndjidda (BSB Yamoussa) through sustainable local development in the project area and participatory management for an effective involvement in conservation strategies that will be implemented in the Yamoussa Complex.

734- In addition, on 29 June 2021, the Minister of Forestry and Wildlife signed a circular relating to the organisation and monitoring of wood potting operations in load breaking yards and processing units²²³. In March of the same year, the Minister through a correspondence, drew the attention of his collaborators to the falsification of secure administrative documents that hid the existence of a laundering network for illegally logged wood.

735- Sanctions were also taken through Decision No. 509/D/MINFOF/CAB of 29 December 2021 to declare null and void certain timber sales in the national domain; Decision No. 510/D/MINFOF/CAB of 29 December 2021 to declare null and void certain public timber auction certificates; and Decision No. 224/D/MINFOF/CAB of 21 June 2021 to temporarily suspend activities in community forest No. 1004767 of the GIC DaaBona in the Lom and Djerem Division.

736- Officially launched on 23 July 2021, the National Plantation Forests Development Programme²²⁴ (2020-2045) is structured around 5 pillars: Timber production and products other than timber and fuelwood, enhancement of wood products and development of silvicultural value chains; Protection and provision of ecosystem services other than supply. Restoration of degraded landscapes and lands; Research, Innovation, Training and capacity-building; Institutional set-up, governance and gender-based decision-making process.

737- Furthermore, the Manyane Na Elombo-Campoa National Marine Park was created by Decree No. 2021/4804/PM of 9 July 2021.

²²³ This concerns follow-up of wood loading operations inside a container in the break bulk yards (places where wood is loaded or unloaded, either for a change of means of transport or for temporary storage).

²²⁴ The implementation of this Programme will contribute to the achievement by Cameroon of the operational objective of promoting the emergence and exploitation of forest plantations through the establishment of 40,000 ha of forest per year for 25 years that is 1,000,000 ha up to horizon 2045, and the assistance to stakeholders of the value chain of the forestry sector.

SECTION 3: FIGHT AGAINST POLLUTION, NUISANCE AND HARMFUL AND/OR DANGEROUS CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES

738- Government actions included the fight against non-biodegradable plastic packaging and waste management.

§1: Fight against Non-biodegradable Plastic Packaging

739- Approximately 6,000,000 tonnes of waste are produced every year in Cameroon, of which 600,000 tonnes is plastic waste, including non-biodegradable plastics. These plastics pollute both the land and waterways.

740- In order to address this situation, the association *Matanda Ecotour* collected more than 12,400 kg of plastic waste in 2021, 3,000 kg of which were recycled. In addition, a start-up in Douala named Iso-tech, which specialises in recycling, used this waste as a raw material to produce fuel which is needed to run its plant (incinerator).

741- Also, operations to seize non-biodegradable plastics were conducted. Thus, 42.5 tonnes of such packaging were seized by the Customs Department, as part of the Halt to Illegal Trade Zone 3 (Halcomi 3) operation, and destroyed by the Regional Delegation of MINEPDED in the North on 29 September 2021.

§2: Waste Management

742- MINEPDED issued 595 technical visas for the quality control of ozone-depleting substances as well as electrical and electronic equipment. Some 13 sessions were held to examine applications for environmental permits, at the end of which 139 environmental permits were issued, 74 of which related to the handling of waste and 65 to the manufacture, import and marketing or distribution of packaging.

743- Furthermore, the transfer of financial resources to 16 RLAs amounting to CFAF 205,000,000²²⁵ for the fight against uncleanness, pollution and nuisance was carried out. A MINEPDED mission was conducted in the 10 regions as part of monitoring waste traceability. At the end of this mission, a substantial improvement was noted in the filling in of waste tra-

²²⁵ About 312, 977.09 Euros.

ceability manifests by the decentralised services of MINEPDED with regard to the completion of the various parts of the traceability manifest; good record keeping of documents relating to the issue of waste traceability manifests (dispatching of booklets, waste register, transmission and archiving of copies of payment receipts); continuous improvement in the reporting of waste movements by delegates and improvement in the regularity of the remittance relating to the issuance of waste traceability manifests to the National Environmental and Sustainable Development Fund. The major difficulty identified by the mission was the lack of the necessary resources (logistics and finances) for the transportation of personnel for the issuance of traceability manifests.

744- In addition, the first edition of the competition called “Orange Summer Challenge” was organised from 1 July to 30 September 2021 by Orange Digital Center in collaboration with Google and Sisley under the theme “Innovative technologies for plastic waste recycling”. The Recyclink team was the winner of the competition. It developed a digital ecosystem for plastic waste collection, the main mission being to connect different stakeholders of plastic waste recycling (from waste producers to processing companies), to raise awareness and teach plastic recycling techniques to the population by setting up a dedicated community.

SECTION 4: ENVIRONMENTAL AND WILDLIFE LITIGATION

745- This section deals with administrative sanctions and legal proceedings as regards the environment, forestry and wildlife.

§1: Environmental Sector

746- The Environmental Inspection Brigade coordinated the inspection of establishments classified as dangerous, unhealthy and inconvenient across the country, as well as compliance checks on plastic packaging. These coordination activities revealed that in 2021, of the 4,482 facilities scheduled, 3,119 facilities were inspected, and 64 reports on investigation of offences were drawn up. Regarding the compliance control of plastic packaging, approximately 54,845 kg of plastic were seized across the country and rendered unusable. As concerns the inspection of ships at the Douala and Kribi sea ports, 655 ships were inspected, and 2 reports on the investigation of offences drawn up and 1,066 formal notices to pay (fines) were served to recalcitrant promoters.

747- As part of preparations for the TotalEnergies AFCON 2021, 166 tourism and leisure facilities were inspected in host cities of the competition, including 22 in Garoua, 20 in Limbe and Buea, 48 in Douala, 44 in Yaounde and 32 in Bafoussam. In addition, the Brigade carried out 7 environmental investigation missions following denunciations or complaints from the public.

748- MINEPDED ensured monitoring of cases in courts where 179 cases were pending, 9 of which were disposed of.

§2: Forestry and Wildlife Sector

749- In 2021, 119 forestry and wildlife cases were brought before the courts in relation to the illegal logging and marketing of protected species.

750- Some 21 defaulting logging companies²²⁶, timber processing units and forestry groups were subject to administrative summonses and financial penalties.

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751- In an effort to address various challenges relating to the protection of the environment, Government carried out actions at the strategic, normative, institutional and operational levels. These included the fight against all forms of pollution and climate change. In line with this, urban forests were created in several swampy areas. Despite the results achieved, there is still a need to continue raising awareness of stakeholders on the risks and consequences of environmental degradation.

²²⁶ 239 logging companies... 155 of which were subject to transactions and penalties paid into the State coffers; 49 were subject to suspension of permit, approval, sale of timber and 35 are pending in various courts.

CONCLUSION OF PART TWO

752- At the end of this Part which focuses on issues relating to economic, social and cultural rights and the right to a healthy environment, a mixed picture is portrayed, as summarised below.

753- The education system implemented adjustment measures and developed resilience, which enabled it to maintain an acceptable level of education supply, both in basic, secondary and higher education.

754- As was the case in 2020, the right to health was again largely marked by the fight against the Covid-19 pandemic. Health facilities were renovated and constructed with the aim of addressing other pathologies better than in the past.

755- The right to an adequate standard of living was severely challenged by security crises and inflation. Despite these constraints, the Government conducted various actions to ensure the availability, accessibility and acceptability of food. Efforts to improve access to water, energy and decent housing were also made, although the overall supply remained insufficient.

756- With regard to the right to work and social security, economic difficulties hampered mass recruitment of young people by companies. Nevertheless, the Government continued its efforts to promote employment, decent work and quality social security.

757- Culture and leisure were positively affected by the construction and renovation of various hotels and sports infrastructure.

758- With regard to the right to a healthy environment, concerns about climate change and the disruption of seasons persisted. To address these concerns, the Government took measures towards the sustainable management of biodiversity and the fight against desertification.

PART THREE

CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES AND SPECIFIC RIGHTS

INTRODUCTION TO PART THREE

759- The Government continued monitoring cross-cutting Human Rights issues and protecting the rights of specific groups, despite the plethora of challenges it faced.

760- Thus, the normative and institutional framework was updated in order to improve the situation of persons living with disabilities, the elderly, refugees, asylum seekers and internally displaced persons, among others. Increased budgetary allocations to the Penitentiary Administration led to the enhancement of prisoners' feeding and health care, with particular attention paid to children, women and the elderly in detention. The protection of women's rights was marked by updating of several policy documents which was ongoing.

761- The Government remained concerned about inter-community conflicts, incursions by armed gangs into the national territory and terrorist attacks. Responses to these scourges allowed for social cohesion to be maintained. With regard to the quality of governance, the digitalisation of certain procedures continued. In addition, dialogue between the private and public sectors remained active.

762- These are the highlights contained in the third part of this report, which is structured as follows:

- Right to Peace and Security (Chapter 1) ;
- Promotion of good Governance and the Fight against Corruption (Chapter 2)
- Detention Conditions (Chapter 3);
- Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Socially Vulnerable Persons (Chapter 4);
- Promotion of Women's Rights (Chapter 5);
- Protection of the Rights of Forcibly Displaced Persons (Chapter 6).

CHAPTER

1

RIGHT TO PEACE AND SECURITY

763- The State carried out actions towards preventing and reducing insecurity, while intensifying the promotion of bilingualism and multiculturalism. An outline of the foregoing actions shall be preceded by an overview of the security situation.

SECTION 1: OVERVIEW OF THE SECURITY SITUATION

764- Incursions by armed gangs continued in the East Region, and the *Boko Haram* terrorist group was not completely annihilated from the Far North Region, while secessionist fighters perpetrated attacks in the North West and South West Regions. There were also clashes in the West Region.

§1: The Security Situation in the Far North Region

765- The security situation in this region was marked by the resurgence of terrorist attacks and intercommunity clashes.

A: The Resurgence of Terrorist Attacks

766- While it is true that the intensity of attacks by the *Boko Haram* group had declined in the Far North Region, suicide attacks against civilians and members of the DSF²²⁷, as well as sporadic incursions, were observed in 2021²²⁸.

767- The Cameroonian army enhanced its strategy in order to respond effectively to the changing threat. This was done in particular by restructuring the mechanism deployed on the ground, upgrading predictive intelligence and remobilising vigilante groups, especially by encouraging them to denounce suspicious activities, disclose local complicity, and alert administrative authorities or the DSFs. To this end, they received logistic support, including motorbikes, helmets and flashlights as well as foodstuffs.

²²⁷ This is the case of the attack in the locality of Dabanga on the night of 17 to 18 March 2021, which led to the death of 3 persons, including a soldier; the attack on the morning of 24 July 2021 on the outpost of Operation "Emergence 4" in the locality of Sagme, which led to the death of 8 soldiers and 13 wounded; the attack on the night of 26 and 27 July 2021 on the command post of sub-sector No. 2 of the Multinational Joint Task Force of the Lake Chad Basin Commission in the locality of Zigue in the Logone-and-Chari Division, which resulted in the death of 5 soldiers and one civilian.

²²⁸ This is the case of the attack perpetrated on 8 January 2021 in the locality of Mozogo, in Mayo-Tsanaga Division, with the use of mines and firearms, which resulted in 12 deaths, injuries and significant material damage.

B: Inter-Community Clashes

768- Between June and December 2021, there was an escalation of violence linked to inter-community clashes in the Logone-and-Chari Division. In June 2021, several people were killed and others wounded, and dozens of houses burnt in a conflict between the Kotokos and the Arab Choas. Tensions arose as the two communities struggled over arable land which was scarce in the first place.

768-1 In August 2021, clashes with the use of bladed weapons occurred in the Logone-Birni locality as a result of disputes over land and natural resources between the Arab Choas who are mainly cattle breeders²²⁹, and the Musgums, who are mainly farmers²³⁰ and fishermen. These clashes resulted in 25 deaths, about 50 persons injured, 42 villages burnt, markets burnt and hundreds of heads of cattle lost or carried away.

769- On 5 December 2021, new clashes in the localities of Mariam and Ouloumsa between these same communities led to the death of 8 persons, about 20 persons injured, one missing person and burning of houses. On 8 December, clashes in the town of Kousseri resulted in 19 deaths and several persons injured, including significant material damage²³¹. This crisis also engendered the displacement of several thousand Cameroonians to neighbouring Chad²³².

770- Through official communiqués, the Government called on the people to pursue peace, exercise restraint, show a sense of patriotism, and foster living together and social cohesion. The administrative authorities of the Far North Region held several consultations with traditional and religious leaders of relevant communities in a bid to address the urgent needs resulting from these clashes. The Government set up a Peace and Security Commission²³³ in the Far North Region to resolve inter-communal conflicts in the Logone-and-Chari Division.

²²⁹ In search of better pasture and water points for their livestock.

²³⁰ They want to preserve arable lands for their crops.

²³¹ Destruction of shops and residences of some high-ranking personalities.

²³² See Chapter on the protection of the rights of forcibly displaced persons.

²³³ Composed of elites, traditional and religious leaders, as well as administrative authorities, the Commission's role is to raise awareness, encourage people to live together, prevent violent extremism and resolve community disputes amicably.

771- On 16 and 17 December 2021, the Government conducted a mission to identify the root causes of this conflict and explore solutions that could bring it to an end once and for all. These solutions included the establishment of a security watch, the organisation of a broad and genuine inter-community dialogue, updating zoning plans while taking into account demographic increase and the corresponding increase in needs, the construction of water points and the proactivity of administrative and traditional authorities. In the same vein, the UNHCR, in collaboration with the local administrative authorities, organised a dialogue between the Musgums and the Arab Choas in Kousseri from 3 to 5 December 2021 to lay the foundations for lasting peace between the two communities.

§2: The Security Situation in the North West and South West Regions

772- In 2021, the security situation in the North West and South West Regions was characterised by three main patterns which included an increase in incidents during police checks, repeated attacks on secondary schools and universities and the continuation of kidnappings and deadly ambushes.

A: Increase in Incidents during Police Checks

773- On 14 October 2021, during a road check at Bokova on the outskirts of Buea in the South West Region, a driver resisted his vehicle being searched and tried to escape. In an attempt to stop him, a Gendarme Officer named **R.A.M.** fired warning shots and fatally hit **ENDIALLE Carolaise**, a young girl aged about 5, who was aboard the said vehicle. That Gendarme Officer was lynched by the crowd²³⁴.

774- On 12 November 2021, in Bamenda in the North West Region, young **TATAW Brandy.**, who was returning from school, was hit by a bullet fired to immobilise a driver who had refused to submit to a road control. In the same town, on 4 July, at the Below-Foncha joint checkpoint, a secessionist fugitive named **N.G.D.**, who had engaged in an evasive driving manoeuvre, was fatally hit by warning shots²³⁵.

B: Repeated Attacks on Secondary Schools and Universities

775- On the morning of 24 November 2021, a group of about 10 armed individuals raided Government Bilingual High School Ekondo-Titi in

²³⁴ See Ministry of Defence press release of 14 October 2021.

²³⁵ See Ministry of Defence press release of 6 July 2021.

the South West Region, killing a female teacher and 4 students aged between 12 and 17, and injuring 7 others. Two weeks earlier, a bomb attack in an amphitheatre at the University of Buea left 11 students wounded. Investigations into these attacks were ongoing at the end of the year.

C: Continuation of Kidnappings and Fatal Ambushes

776- Armed gangs continued to kidnap²³⁶ and attack traditional rulers²³⁷, public authorities²³⁸ and DSFs²³⁹. Most of these attacks were carried out with the use of Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs). Moreover, these armed groups used the civilian population as human shields on several occasions.

§3: The Security Situation in the East Region

777- The Central African Republic (CAR) was exposed to security crises after the 27 December 2020 presidential election. This situation which was further compounded by violent acts perpetrated by armed gangs, led to the influx of Central African refugees into the East Region, thereby impacting the security situation there. Special measures were implemented, including the construction of a Rapid Intervention Battalion (BIR) post in Zamboi²⁴⁰. In order to assess the effectiveness of these measures, the Chief of Army Staff conducted an operational control mission in the area from 5 to 7 January 2021, then from 10 to 12 November 2021, which enabled him to observe that relative calm was gradually returning.

778- Furthermore, within the framework of international cooperation, Cameroon participated in the peacekeeping mission in CAR, by sending 1,070 members of the DSF, constituting the 8th Cameroonian contingent of the

²³⁶ In June 2021, 6 civil servants were kidnapped in the Ndian Division, in the South West Region. The chiefs of the Boku, Ikaké and Bénin villages in the Menchum Division were kidnapped on 9 November 2021; the Fon of Bambalang in Ngoketunja Division was also kidnapped on 7 December 2021.

²³⁷ For example, on the night of 13 to 14 February 2021, 3 traditional rulers from Essoh-Atah village in the Lebialem Division were shot.

²³⁸ On the night of 5 to 6 January 2021, the convoy of the Divisional Officer of Momo Division was ambushed by armed gangs in Mbengwi. The death toll stood at 5 (including 4 members of the DSFs and 1 civilian), 3 wounded and significant material damage.

²³⁹ For example, Rapid Intervention Battalion (BIR) convoys were attacked in Kikaikom and Bamessing (North West Region) on 12 and 16 September 2021 respectively, resulting in the death of 15 soldiers and civilians, as well as the destruction of three vehicles.

²⁴⁰ This post which was inaugurated on 25 June 2021 is found in the Garoua-Boulai Council, Lom and-Djerem Division and is 400 metres from the border with CAR.

United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilisation Mission in the CAR in September 2021. This active and constant participation in peacekeeping in CAR contributed, by extension, in ensuring security in the East Region, which shares a boundary with that country.

§4: The Security Situation in the West Region

779- The situation in the West Region was marked by incursions of armed gangs from the North West Region. This was the case on 8 January 2021 with the attack on the joint checkpoint at Matazem in Bamboutos Division, which resulted in 6 deaths and 2 wounded persons, and the attack on the outpost of the Zavion defence forces in the Babadjou Sub-division, which led to the death of 2 Gendarme Officers.

780- This region also recorded community clashes. On 8 September 2021, three days after the fatal attack on a native of the town of Tonga in the Ndé Division, clashes between certain non-natives and natives resulted in 4 deaths and dozens wounded.

SECTION 2: INCREASING ACTIONS TO PREVENT INSECURITY

781- Among other things, the State secured borders and undertook actions to prevent violent extremism and terrorist attacks.

§1: Securing Borders

782- In addition to securing maritime and air borders, the State also took actions to secure land borders. These actions concerned the border between Cameroon and CAR, as well as those between Cameroon and Nigeria on the one hand, and Cameroon and Congo on the other.

A: New Impetus in Securing the Border between Cameroon and CAR

783- At the end of the 2nd meeting on cross-border security between Cameroon and CAR, held in the town of Bouar in CAR on 16 November 2021, and attended by a Cameroonian delegation led by the Minister Delegate at the Presidency in charge of Defence²⁴¹, several resolutions were taken, including the commitment of the two States to strengthen cooperation in the areas of defence and security; and to boost exchanges in the areas of training, intelligence and the fight against cross-border crime. The construc-

²⁴¹ Inter-ministerial delegation composed of representatives of the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of External Relations, the DGSN, Governors of the East and Adamawa Regions, as well as the Cameroonian Ambassador to CAR.

tion of a BIR post by the Government at Zamboï in the Garoua-Boulai Council area, Lom-and-Djérem Division, is part of this process to secure the Cameroon/CAR border.

B: Progress in the Demarcation of the Border between Cameroon and Nigeria and between Cameroon and Congo

784- On 18 and 19 November 2021, Cameroon hosted the 33rd session of the United Nations Mixed Commission in charge of implementing the ruling of the International Court of Justice of 10 October 2002 on the border conflict between Cameroon and Nigeria over the Bakassi Peninsula. On this occasion, the progress of the border demarcation process was assessed. Between February 2014, when the 32nd session was held, and November 2021, the steering committee implanted 1,295 markers, totalling 1,673. In addition, the work of the experts helped to reduce points of discord from 17 to 4.

785- The 4th session of the Cameroon-Congo Mixed Technical Border Commission was held in Ouessou from 12 to 14 July 2021. Having noticed the wide spacing²⁴² between the main markers located along the Cameroon-Nigeria border, the delegations of the Commission called upon the States and partners to mobilise financial and material resources for the effective implementation of the border demarcation project.

§2: Preventing Violent Extremism and Terrorist Attacks

786- Several initiatives to prevent violent extremism and terrorist attacks were carried out by both the State and private partners. Thus, the Ministry of Scientific Research and Innovation (MINRESI) organised a national workshop in Yaounde, from 25 to 29 October 2021, on the implementation of a nuclear security plan to ensure security in general during major public events. The aim of this activity was to educate participants from various administrations on measures to prevent and detect unauthorised access and acts of sabotage involving nuclear or radioactive materials.

787- For its part, the African Peace Support Trainers Association (APSTA)²⁴³ organised a meeting in Yaounde on 16 December 2021, with various Cameroonian directors of publication on the theme *Media and information literacy as a means to prevent and fight against violent extremism*. The aim

²⁴² From 10 to 20km

²⁴³ It is a pan-African body tasked with improving the training capacity of peacekeeping institutions, and works to build peace and stability in Africa.

was to recall the fundamentals of journalism and to share best practices on how to process information in a crisis context.

788- In 2021, the *Cercle International pour la Promotion de la Création* (CIPCRE) equipped 100 students from 10 schools in the West Region with life skills on preventing and responding to school-based violence. In addition, 50 teachers were trained on the same topic and became members of monitoring and supervision units on techniques for promoting life skills among pupils.

SECTION 3: STRENGTHENING PEACE-BUILDING ACTIVITIES

789- Under this heading, the Government was active at several levels: diplomatic actions, actions to promote peace, the pooling of forces to combat insecurity and terrorism, capacity-building for public employees on security-related issues, as well as disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration of ex-fighters and ex-associates.

§1: Diplomatic Actions to Resolve the Security Crisis

790- In order to resolve the security crisis in the North West and South West Regions, Cameroon undertook various bilateral and multilateral diplomatic actions aimed at cutting off external financial sources channelled to armed gangs, prosecuting instigators based abroad, and thwarting all other actions carried out by same.

791- In this regard, Cameroon, *inter alia*, initiated actions in Germany, France, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and the United States of America. Moreover, the Government constantly informed its partners of the complexity of the crisis and expressed its strong commitment to resolve it. On 28 October 2021, the Government, through its Minister of External Relations, convened heads of diplomatic missions and international organisations accredited to Cameroon, to brief them on the implementation of resolutions emanating from the Major National Dialogue which was held from 30 September to 4 October 2019²⁴⁴. The same was done during the 11th session of the Permanent Council of *La Francophonie* held in July 2021.

²⁴⁴ He recalled the promulgation of Law No. 2019/24 of 24 December 2019 to institute the General Code of Regional and Local Authorities, which introduced the special status for the North West and South West Regions; the stay of proceedings against some persons who were being tried in the context of the crisis in these regions; the setting up of the presidential plan for the reconstruction of these regions; the recruitment of more than 1,000 bilingual teachers; the special subsidy allocated to English-language schools, etc.

§2: Actions to Promote Peace

792- In addition to calls for a culture of peace made by the Head of State in his addresses to the nation, peace crusades led by the Head of Government and social actions by DSF can be mentioned as actions to promote peace.

A: Peace Crusades by the Head of Government in the North West and South West Regions

793- The Head of Government toured the South West Region from 22 to 24 September 2021 and the North West Region from 5 to 7 October 2021 in an effort to convey a peace message. In Buea, he seized the opportunity of these official visits to hold the 2nd meeting of the Follow-up Committee on the recommendations of the Major National Dialogue, and more generally to present the State's responses to various demands by some groups as well as all other actions taken towards resolving the ongoing security crisis. He called upon the population to work towards the operationalisation of the Presidential Plan for the Reconstruction and Development of the North West and South West Regions, and to urge their children who joined armed gangs to accept the Head of State's peace offer by laying down arms and integrating Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration Centres.

B: Social Actions by Defence and Security Forces

794- In order to strengthen the relationship between the Army and the Nation, DSFs went beyond their mainstream mission of defence and preservation of security, by carrying out social actions which benefited the population, especially in the education and social sectors. For example, the BIR donated the following: about a hundred classroom desks, chalk and pencils to the Déhané Government school and the Luma Grand-Batanga bilingual public school in the South Region on 28 September 2021; teaching material to 6 schools in the Bakassi peninsula on 5 October 2021; classroom desks to the public school of Sabongari and the public school of Doubané in the Far North Region on 6 October 2021; and tricycles and financial support to a dozen persons with motor disabilities in Douala on 23 September 2021. Furthermore, the Presidential Guard handed learning material to 515 children from 138 families in Yaounde on 1 September

2021 and the 21st Motorised Infantry Brigade renovated the Likoko Mimbia nursery school in Buea in the South West Region.

C: Reconstruction of the Crisis-Stricken Regions

795- The Reconstruction and Development Plan for the North West and South West Regions engendered considerable benefits. The Reconstruction Plan for the Far North Region was also adopted.

1) Impact of the Reconstruction and Development Plan for the North West and South West Regions

796- On 16 September 2021, the Steering Committee of the Reconstruction and Development Plan for the North West and South West Regions (RDP-NW/SW)²⁴⁵ held its 3rd session in Yaounde. On this occasion, it was observed that life was gradually returning to normal in the two Regions. This development was the result of a plethora of actions carried out by persons in charge of implementing the RDP-NW/SW in order to restore the trust of the local population. Such actions included: the organisation of holiday championships, support provided to community radio stations which broadcasted peace messages, the establishment of 65 “insider mediators” and a network of “influencers” for peace on social media, the organisation of consultation workshops, the rehabilitation of women empowerment centres, etc. A total of CFAF 1 54,000,000,000 was expected to be mobilised for the said reconstruction for 2020 and 2021.

797- In order to mobilise resources for the reconstruction and development phases of the Plan, the Head of Government organised a consultation session with private companies in Douala on 18 May 2021, with a view to encouraging them to accompany the reconstruction process. As a result of promises made on the occasion, some companies subsequently signed agreements with the Government²⁴⁶.

²⁴⁵ The 3 major missions of this plan include: restoration of social cohesion; reconstruction and rehabilitation of basic infrastructure; and revitalisation of the local economy.

²⁴⁶ On 26 November 2021, the *Société Anonyme des Brasseries du Cameroun* (SABC) and the *Groupe des Industries Meunières du Cameroun* (GIMC) signed agreements with the Government for the payment of FCFA 1,000,000,000 (about 1,526,717.56 Euros) by SABC and FCFA 200,000,000 (soit 305 343. 51 Euros) by GIMC.

2) Adoption of the Reconstruction Plan for the Far North Region

798- The Presidential Reconstruction Plan for the Far North Region was adopted on 26 September 2021. It focuses on the following thrusts intended to repair damage caused by attacks of the *Boko Haram* group and floods that occurred in the Region,: reconstruction, estimated at CFAF 136,000,000,000²⁴⁷, infrastructure development valued at CFAF 1,587,000,000,000²⁴⁸ (with particular focus on urban roads), support to socio-economic activities and adaptation to climate change, estimated at CFAF 87,000,000,000,²⁴⁹ and governance²⁵⁰, for a total of CFAF 1,810,000,000,000²⁵¹.

799- The first thrust, aims at rebuilding infrastructure destroyed by the *Boko Haram* group. The second aims at reviving the economy and reducing social vulnerabilities through the development of socio-economic activities and training, with priority given to women and youth. The last one aims at strengthening the resilience of the population to seasonal high rainfall, and putting in place a mechanism to take advantage of the surplus water.

800- The adoption of a plan for the Far North which is different from that of the North West and South West, reflects the Government's desire to take into account the specificities of each of the crises and the localities concerned. This Plan, which is supposed to be implemented alongside other usual State investments in this region, received the support of technical and financial partners, such as the UNDP.

§3: Pooling Strengths for an Effective Fight against Insecurity and Terrorism

801- The 3rd meeting of the Lake Chad Basin Governors' Forum for regional cooperation in stabilisation, peace building and sustainable development²⁵² was held in Yaounde on 4 and 5 October 2021. The main resolution ta-

²⁴⁷About 207,633,587.78 Euros.

²⁴⁸ About 2,422,900,763.35 Euros.

²⁴⁹ About 132,824,427.48 euros.

²⁵⁰ Not evaluated

²⁵¹ About 2,763,358,778.62 Euros.

²⁵² This is a cooperation platform set up to address cross-border and cross-cutting issues common to Cameroon, Niger, Nigeria and Chad.

ken by the participants (Governors, UN agencies and other technical and financial partners) at the end of deliberations was to work towards the realisation of the Regional Stabilisation Strategy, Recovery and Resilience of the Lake Chad Basin region affected by the *Boko Haram* crisis²⁵³ through the development of the 8 Territorial Action Plans covering the regions most affected by the attacks.

802- Cameroon and Nigeria decided to pool efforts to combat the growing terrorist group known as ISWAP (Islamic West African Province). It is in this regard that on 17 November 2021, the 4th Joint Military Region (RMIA 4) based in Maroua held a working session with a delegation of the Nigerian Army and the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF), with the aim of exchanging knowledge and information on various strategies to implement in order to counter the group. The working session was in line with the resolutions of the 8th session of the Cameroon-Nigeria Cross Border Security Commission held in Abuja from 24 to 26 August 2021.

§4: Capacity-Building for Public Employees in the Area of Security

803- Given an increase in the use of IEDs on the field, EFORCES organised a training course for commanders of security units from 8 March to 25 June 2021. It brought together 53 Gendarmes and Police Officers of 14 nationalities, more than half of whom were Cameroonians. The aim was to perfect their operational skills in the areas of restoring order in crisis situations, leading complex investigations and defending the territory. From 15 to 19 November 2021, the same school organised a seminar to raise awareness on IEDs, mines and remnants of war. The seminar brought together 34 participants from Central Africa, including more than 20 Cameroonians who were either members of CSOs, DSF, Penitentiary Administration and Customs, most of whom were working in crisis zones and in peacekeeping operations. The aim was to enhance their knowledge on networks for the supply of material, methods used to conceal IED manufacturing ingredients, procedure to follow in case of discovery or explosion of these devices, and mechanisms for the psychological care of victims.

804- In June 2021, the *Centre Spécialisé d'Instruction, d'Application et de Perfectionnement* trained 16 military engineers in the fight against IEDs.

²⁵³ Validated in August 2018.

§5: Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration of Ex-Fighters and Ex-Associates

805- The National Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration Committee (NDDRC) upgraded its infrastructure and enhanced the capacity of its personnel. It achieved a number of results.

A: Upgrading NDDRC Infrastructure

806- In November 2021, the construction of the regional reception centre for ex-fighters in Mémé in the Far North Region was launched. Structures to be built were estimated at CFAF1,300,000,000²⁵⁴.

807- On 3 December 2021, the Coordinator of the NDDRC officially received the ex-fighters complex of the South West, built at Misselele in the Tiko Sub-division. The complex built on a surface area of 3 hectares, at a cost of CFAF1,000,000,000²⁵⁵, comprises 6 dormitories, an administrative block, an infirmary, a church, 2 workshops, a refectory, a gatehouse and 2 boreholes. The effective operationalisation of this facility will allow ex-fighters living in the provisional centre in Buea to benefit from better care. The North West ex-fighters regional reception centre, built in Bamenda was also received in 2021. These multifunctional centres each have a capacity of 1,000 occupants.

B: Capacity-Building for CNDDR Personnel

808- From 21 to 24 September 2021, the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) organised a capacity-building workshop for stakeholders involved in the Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration (DDR) process in Cameroon. The aim was to provide the more than thirty participants, a third of whom were NDDRC managers and supervisors, with basic notions for a conceptual and operational understanding of the principles, procedures and practices of planning, coordinating and conducting a DDR programme.

809- From 31 May to 1 June 2021, with the support of the IOM, Cameroon organised the 2nd regional workshop on DDR in the Lake Chad Ba-

²⁵⁴ About 1,984,732.82 Euros.

²⁵⁵ About 1,526,717.55 Euros.

sin region²⁵⁶ on the theme *Regional harmonisation on community-focused reintegration and reconciliation*. Subsequently, a Cameroonian delegation²⁵⁷ participated in the 3rd and 4th regional workshops held in Niamey²⁵⁸ and Abuja²⁵⁹ respectively, on the themes *Regional harmonisation of selection and determination of eligibility for DDRR and institutional architecture and coordination of DDRR in the Lake Chad Basin countries*. The main objective of these workshops was to promote discussion and experience-sharing on the development and implementation of DDR policies and programmes, to highlight the main challenges and propose solutions with focus on strengthening regional cooperation. At the end of the workshops, participants validated a final report containing 10 recommendations²⁶⁰ on the harmonisation of programmes and the pooling of resources for more effective DDR processes in the Lake Chad Basin region.

C: Results Achieved by the NDDRC

810- The results achieved by the NDDRC include the development of an operational tool and the demobilisation of several ex-fighters and ex-associates.

1) Development of a Strategic Tool

811- In January 2021, with the support of UN-Women, the NDDRC adopted a gender strategy for the 2021-2025 period. This document specifies the economic, socio-cultural, political and legal foundations; the eligibility criteria; various components, namely disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration; the strategic thrusts; the institutional framework for implementation; the monitoring and evaluation mechanism; as well as financing arrangements. Attached to this document is a matrix of priority actions setting out various activities to be carried out. It aims to enable better consi-

²⁵⁶ The first one, organised by Chad on 30 November 2020, focused on the following theme: “progress achieved in the various countries of the Lake Chad Basin in terms of DDRR”.

²⁵⁷ It was composed of two representatives of the NDDRC, a representative of the Ministry of Justice, a representative of the DGSN and two community leaders.

²⁵⁸ In Niger, on 28 and 29 July 2021.

²⁵⁹ In Nigeria, from 2 to 4 November 2021.

²⁶⁰ Which advocate, inter alia: the adoption of an inclusive multisector approach to DDR; the creation of a permanent regional committee to monitor DDR programmes; the development of common standards and protocols for selection and eligibility for DDR, etc.

deration of the needs of women and girls in the implementation of the DDR process in Cameroon.

2) Demobilisation of Ex-Fighters and Ex-Associates

812- As at 31 December 2021, the number of persons in the various ex-fighters regional reception centres was as follows:

Table 1: Number of ex-fighters in reception centres as of 31 December 2021

Reception Centres	Men	Women	Children	Total
Buea (South West)	230	06	22	258
Bamenda (North West)	154	45	39	238
Mora (Far North)	256	245	474	975
Total	640	296	535	1,471

Source: NDDRC

813- In July, August and September 2021, there was an influx of Boko Haram ex-fighters and ex-associates in the Mora reception centre due to their massive demobilisation following disagreements between various factions in the wake of the announcement of the death of the leader **Abubakar SHEKAU**. This resulted in a significant increase in the number of persons in that centre, as presented in the following table:

Table 2: Number of ex-fighters in the Mora reception centre as of 14 September 2021

Nationalities	Cameroonians	Nigerians	Chadians	Total
Number	849	1161	3	2013

Source: NDDRC

814- Foreign ex-fighters were handed over to the authorities of their respective countries in successive turns. Those of Cameroonian nationality continued the deradicalisation programme and training²⁶¹ in the various centres, with a view to preparing their return to normal life.

²⁶¹ In carpentry, bricklaying, sewing, hairdressing, cooking, etc.

SECTION 4: CONTINUED PROMOTION OF BILINGUALISM, MULTICULTURALISM AND LIVING TOGETHER

815- The National Commission for the Promotion of Bilingualism and Multiculturalism (NCPBM) continued to promote social cohesion and the equal use of the two official languages. In this context, it carried out 2 main activities: an intensive communication campaign against hate speech and xenophobia on the one hand, and field visits to assess the level of implementation of the public policy of promoting bilingualism in public and private structures on the other.

816- As part of the first activity, the NCPBM visited 8 of the 10 regions of the country²⁶². In addition, it organised a colloquium on hate speech and xenophobia in Yaounde on 5 and 6 May 2021. After analysing the causes, manifestations and consequences of these scourges, the experts²⁶³ formulated 30 proposals to curb them. The NCPBM also conducted a media campaign on traditional and new communication platforms.

817- Concerning the second activity, the members of the NCPBM conducted a mission in the town of Douala, Littoral Region, from 31 October to 5 November 2021, where they evaluated, with satisfaction, the practice of bilingualism in banks, financial institutions, public bank related institutions and breweries, as well as raised the awareness of employers' organisations, such as GICAM and the Chamber of Commerce, on 3 issues namely: Law No. 2019/19 of 24 December 2019 on the promotion of official languages in Cameroon; the economic benefits of promoting the two official languages; and hate speech and xenophobia in Cameroon.

818- Following in the strides of the NCPBM, the *Réseau des Organisations pour la Promotion de la Paix et la Protection des Droits Humains en Afrique* (Network of organisations for the Promotion of Peace and the Protection of Human Rights in Africa) (Rop3Dha) organised in June 2021, an awareness-raising campaign called "No To Hate Speech" in some schools in Yaounde²⁶⁴, with the aim of enabling young people foster the message of tolerance on social media.

²⁶² Adamawa, Centre, East, Littoral, West, North West, South and South West Regions. It should be specified that field visits were made to the Far North and North Regions in November 2020.

²⁶³ They were Anthropologists, Political Scientists, Sociologists, Lawyers, etc.

²⁶⁴ Including Government High School Odza and the Government Technical High School Nkolbisson.

819- In addition, the network of parliamentarians for the promotion of bilingualism and multiculturalism was created during the parliamentary session of March 2021. It aims to support and assist the Government in actions carried out in this area, particularly through intensifying awareness-raising and disseminating legal instruments for the promotion of official languages. To this end, a 2021-2025 Action Plan was drawn up.

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820- Although challenges persist, it can be concluded that all these multifaceted actions contributed to the promotion of social cohesion and living together, which had a relatively positive impact on security, peace and harmony in Cameroon in 2021.

CHAPTER

2

PROMOTING GOOD GOVERNANCE AND COMBATING CORRUPTION

821- Promoting good governance and combating corruption remained a strategic focus of Government's policy as in previous years. In a bid to improve the quality of governance, combat corruption and misappropriation of public property, various initiatives were undertaken.

SECTION 1: STRENGTHENING THE QUALITY OF GOVERNANCE

822- In order to strengthen the quality of governance, Government took some steps, notably, dialogue with the private sector, implementation of the principle of transparency, digitalisation of procedures and adoption of some tax measures as well as investment incentives.

§1: Dialogue between the Public and Private Sectors

823- This dialogue continued and an evaluation of the impact of reforms implemented as part of recommendations of the Cameroon Business Forum²⁶⁵ (CBF) was carried out.

A: Continuation of Dialogue between the Public and Private Sectors

824- One of the highlights of this dialogue was the meeting presided over by the Head of Government on 18 May 2021, in Douala at the Headquarters of the Cameroon Employers Organisation²⁶⁶ (GICAM), which is the most representative employers' organisation. Besides the main issue which was the Plan for the Reconstruction and Development of the North West and South West Regions, the Head of Government recalled the substantial contributions of the private sector to State revenue.

825- Members of Government and other administrative authorities held consultations with the private sector on diverse topics. The discussions focused inter alia on gaining mastery of the Bilateral Economic Partnership Agreement between Cameroon and the European Union, taxation, the implementation of public finance reforms, the hike in prices of basic commodities and the cost of maritime freight, the role of private initiatives in developing the economy, creating wealth and employment, the understanding and vision of company managers on Cameroon's economy, and professional training.

²⁶⁵ The CBF is a platform for discussions between stakeholders of public administrations and those of the private sector which results in making recommendations that lead to reforms.

²⁶⁶ Some initiatives undertaken in the context of the said dialogue were published on GICAM's website (<https://www.legicam.cm>).

B: Evaluating the Impact of Reforms Implemented in the context of the CBF

826- This evaluation was done as part of a study carried out by the National Institute of Statistics²⁶⁷ (NIS). The results published in June 2021 revealed that between 2009 and 2018, the Government adopted 83 reforms recommended by the CBF in 11 areas of intervention. About 80% of reforms proposed were entirely implemented in the areas of investment promotion and creation of companies. The areas of intervention where reforms were partially implemented included the issuance of town planning documents and dispute settlement. At the end of the study, NIS recommended the further dissemination of the said reforms for better mastery, review of the CBF format by holding topical workshops prior to the Forum and improvement of the monitoring and evaluation framework of the implementation of reforms by formulating recommendations together with follow-up indicators.

827- Moreover, on 30 March 2021, a meeting was held to evaluate the implementation of recommendations made at the 11th Session of the CBF which held on 22 October 2020, in Yaounde, at the Prime Minister's Office. During this meeting, the Ministers concerned prepared an appraisal of implementation of recommendations made to the ministries under their authority.

§2: Tax Measures to improve the Business Climate²⁶⁸

828- Through the 2021 Finance Law (FL), the Government adopted some general tax measures as well as tax measures specific to economic challenges brought about by the Covid-19 health crisis.

A: General Tax Measures

829- In addition to adopting a tax regime that promotes the digital economy characterised by a compromise on several tax benefits, the 2021 FL exempted companies which made progress in the spontaneous payment of taxes and tax instalments by at least 15% compared to the pre-

²⁶⁷ See <https://www.impots.cm/sites/default/files/documents/Note%20d%27analyse.pdf>

²⁶⁸ See <https://www.impots.cm/sites/default/files/documents/mesure%20fiscals%20F-A%202021.pdf>

vious year. The law also strengthened the tax benefits of the stock exchange sector notably by granting a reduced tax rate on companies for those that accept to place their ordinary shares on the list of the Central African Stock Exchange (BVMAC).

830- Moreover, the 2021 FL rationalised conditions for deducting losses relating to damages, clarified the territorial regime of the value added tax (VAT) on the supply of material services that can be located in Cameroon and for immaterial services, and instituted the procedure for the automatic relief of incorrectly issued taxes.

B: Tax Measures Specific to the Response to Economic Challenges Caused by the Covid-19 Health Crisis

831- The 2021 FL renewed the special compromise, reduced by two percentage points the income tax rate for SMEs and established both the free registration of deeds on the purchase of domestic public debt and the total deduction for tax purposes of grants made by companies to the State as part of the fight against Covid-19. In addition, tax measures were adopted in favour of the hotel industry, the transport and forestry sector such as the suspension of the tourist tax, the repeal of the axle tax and the reduction from 4% to 3% the felling tax.

§3: Continuation of the Digitalisation of Procedures

832- In a bid to reduce the timeline for examining files, reduce public expenditure, increase State revenue, reduce cases of corruption, reduce costs of travel by users, secure files by digitalising them, Government continued the digitalisation of some procedures. Several administrations thus had specific digital platforms. These administrations include the Directorate General for Taxation-DGI (FISCALIS and OTP), the Department of Customs (DGD) and the One-Stop Shop for External Trade Operations (e-GUCE and CAM-CIS), the Ministry of Finance (SYAMPE), the Ministry of Justice (JUSTICAM), the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife (SIGIF 2) and the Ministry of Public Contracts (COLEPS).

833- For example, to evaluate and explain the implementation of digitalisation of 14 of the 16 most visited administrative services in terms of monitoring of career files, the Minister of Public Service and Administrative Reform toured the 10 regions of Cameroon. Similarly, on 16 March

2021, in Yaounde, MINFOPRA organised a workshop for personnel of several administrations on the mastery of the new digitalised procedure for the recruitment of State employees.

834- Moreover, the 2021 FL further stressed the digitalisation of payments by specifying modalities for payment of taxes and duties. Thus, the law provided for the issuance and notification of receipts by online and made e-payment a compulsory method of payment for companies under the Directorate Large Tax Payers. For companies under the jurisdiction of divisional tax centres (CDI), the law imposed on them payment by bank transfer, by electronic means or by Mobile Tax, with payments in cash only possible at bank outlets. Talking about divisional tax offices situated in areas without bank networks, the 2021 FL only authorised payment in cash to authorised fiscal agents.

835- To illustrate the results of the digitalisation of procedures, on 26 November 2021, during the presentation of the Government economic, financial, social and cultural Programme for the 2022 budget year, the Head of Government indicated that the digitalisation of procedures within the administration had led to the reduction by about 30% of the average time required by tax payers to fulfil their tax obligations.

836- This digitalisation which concerned tax declaration, payment of taxes, tax controls, contentious proceedings and pre-litigation complaints related thereto, also led to an increase in and better protection of revenue. Thus, from January to June 2021, revenue collected increased by CFAF 50,000,000,000²⁶⁹ compared to the previous year according to statistics published by the Directorate General of Taxation, which explained that the increase was a result of optimising collection of taxes notably through the digitalisation of tax procedures.

§4: Investment Incentives

837- The Ministry of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises, Social Economy and Handicrafts (MINPMEESA) and the Small and Medium sized Enterprises Promotion Agency (APME) carried out initiatives aimed at attracting investment.

²⁶⁹ About 76,468,930.10 Euro.

A: Actions by MINPMEESA²⁷⁰

838- While supporting wealth creators in the registration of their companies and promoting entrepreneurship, MINPMEESA continued supporting SMEs, handicraft organisations and the social economy.

839- In this vein, the following were organised: the 7th edition of the Cameroon International Handicraft Exhibition, the 6th edition of the National SME Days, business meetings between French companies of the Auvergne Rhône Alpes Region and Cameroon SMEs, the 2nd National networking Day for agricultural and agri-food SMEs and the 1st edition of the handicraft and SME Days. Other events were also organised such as the 5th edition of the national social economy days, the 3rd edition of *Youth Connekt Cameroon*, the 6th edition of the Fair at Hilton, the 6th edition of the Caravan to raise awareness on authorised management centres as well as the JCP-MINPMEESA Cooperation and Partnership days.

840- Moreover, MINPMEESA launched trainings for entrepreneurs, including: a series of workshops to raise awareness on tax incentives for start-ups found in the 2021 finance law, authorised management centres and support structures for SMEs, the first of which held on 16 March 2021 in Yaounde; a technical capacity building workshop for 30 craftsmen and craftswomen on packaging in April 2021 in Douala; and an awareness and mastery campaign on the normative framework of the social economy for promoters of social economy organisations and companies, launched in Yaounde on 29 June 2021.

841- Furthermore, MINPMEESA granted the first authorisations to private incubations structures, monitored the execution of the *EMPRETEC* programme²⁷¹ (with the graduation of the 23rd, 24th and 25th batches), published the list of start-up projects from the Edea National Pilot Business Incubator eligible for State subvention, set up a committee for the validation of support mechanisms and training modules within the incubation structures and presented its “2020 Statistical Yearbook”.

²⁷⁰ A comprehensive overview of actions by MINPMEESA is available on the following platforms : www.minpmeesa.gov.cm and www.facebook.com/minpmeesa

²⁷¹ It is an integrated managerial capacity-building programme based on personal development of entrepreneurs to make them more competitive.

B: Actions by the Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises Promotion Agency

842- The APME signed 7 agreements in the context of the investment incentive improvement regime, for 544 prospective jobs and investments, to the tune of CFAF7,000,000,000²⁷². The APME teams visited 31 companies that benefited from this approval. Moreover, APME also drafted 600 SMEs mapping reports, 1,000 catalogues on administrative formalities and authorisations relating to exercise a T1 activity; 500 catalogues of sources of financial and non-financial support to SMEs; and 2,000 Investor Guides (1,200 in French and 800 in English).

843- As part of the Cameroon Food Packaging and Quality Programme, a communication workshop was organised on 27 May 2021 in Yaounde. From May to July 2021, personnel from APME visited 17 agro-food and cosmetics SMEs in the city of Douala. The average global rate of compliance moved from 53% in 2020 to 70% in 2021. In Yaounde, 15 SMEs were trained on good hygiene practices, best practices for production and mastery of the regulatory framework, etc.

844- In addition, the Cameroon Technical Agri-food Centre analysed 16 samples from 14 agri-food SMEs in Douala. Some 62 physico-chemical analyses and 128 microbiological analyses were carried out on 16 products and revealed a compliance rate of 56%. The National Laboratory for the Quality Control of Drugs and Expertise (LANACOME) analysed 30 products from 7 SMEs in the cosmetics sector in Yaounde and Douala. Some 14 agri-food SMEs in Yaounde provided products for physico-chemical and bacteriological analyses as well as for compliance control of labelling information. Some 34 kits of 108 small quality control and packaging equipment were distributed to SME promoters in Douala on 25 October 2021.

845- As part of the programme to modernise SMEs using ICTs, APME launched a series of 3 *Academy Online*²⁷³ webinars on 25 October 2021 broadcasted in SME support centres and Centres of Business Creation Formalities (CBCF) in the 10 regions with an audience of 1,100 participants.

²⁷² About 10,705,650.21 Euros

²⁷³ It is a platform for exchange, sharing and promotion of best professional practice which will help improve the competitiveness of SMEs.

On the field, 20 SMEs in the printing and wood sector in Douala and Yaounde received support for their digital marketing and electronic trade strategies.

846- In terms of support to the search for funding and support mechanism for modern companies, an awareness-raising workshop on investment capital was organised by APME on 17 August 2021 in Douala and over 30 SMEs of the agri-food and printing sectors were present. As concerns diagnosis and restructuring, 35 SMEs of the printing sector (15 from Douala and 20 from Yaounde) and 7 SMEs of the woodwork sector in Yaounde were sensitised. Out of these 42 SMEs, 20 accepted this diagnosis which mainly highlighted difficulties faced by the printing sector in accessing the textbook market and by the furniture sector in accessing public procurement.

847- Regarding the integrated promotion of SMEs, the execution of the *Kaizen*²⁷⁴ project continued with advanced *Kaizen* trainings in Douala and Yaounde, from 26 April to 22 May 2021 and from 14 June to 9 July 2021 respectively; the training of 24 consultants and 5 inspectors on improving productivity and the quality of production chains, Business Management training from 26 July to 20 August 2021 in Douala and from 30 August to 24 September 2021 in Yaounde.

848- To promote entrepreneurial spirit, several youths were trained, including 414 volunteer supervisors and mentors. Some 6,226 youths were trained in entrepreneurship, 10 on handling the platform for drafting a business plan and 10 on the use of the incubation tool for the follow-up of youths trained online. As concerns the *Start and Improve your Business* Programme, 25 SMEs set up in the North West and South West Regions benefited from trainings on how to start and develop a company.

849- In summary, CFCEs created 15,542 companies, with 61.56% of firms and 8.76% of Limited Liability Companies (LLCs) in the Adamawa (434), Centre (5,877), East (331), Far North (494), Littoral (5,342), North (542), North West (520), West (842), South (214), and South West (946) Regions.

²⁷⁴ Method implemented by the Japanese International Cooperation Agency which seeks to boost performance in production through simple, concrete and low-cost actions.

§5: Application of the Principle of Transparency

850- This principle was applied to extractive industries. Hence, the National Mining Corporation (SONAMINES), which has amongst its missions to contribute to the promotion of transparency in the mining industry was made operational by the Government. The Government also continued its participation in the Kimberly Process and the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI).

A: Operationalisation of SONAMINES

851- In April 2021, pursuant to Decree No. 2021/209 of 14 April 2021, members of the Board of Directors of SONAMINES were appointed. Following Decree No. 2021/208 of the same day, members of the General Assembly were also appointed. In the same month, the Chairperson of the Board of Directors was elected, and a General Manager and a Deputy General Manager were appointed.

852- During its ordinary session held on 22 June 2021 in Yaounde, the Board of Directors adopted resolutions relating to the effective start of SONAMINES notably those regarding the start budget, priority plans of action and the constitution of 4 internal commissions in charge of public contracts, strategy, audit and governance, environment and labour issues. The general Management of the company carried out diverse initiatives including a series of consultations with collectors and authorities in charge of procurement offices and merger units, from 12 to 16 October 2021 in Bertoua, Meiganga and Rey-Bouba.

B: Participation in the Kimberly Process

853- Government continued strengthening the mechanism in charge of control and classification of diamond production and sales networks and the capacity of its stakeholders. Thus, the Permanent National Secretariat of the Kimberly Process launched an operation to conduct a census, raise awareness, train and make stakeholders of artisanal mining official. The operation which focused on diamond sites in the Kette, Mbotoro, Kentzou and Gari-Gombo Sub divisions in the East Region scheduled to last a month, was expected to progressively spread to other localities.

854- The said operation consisted in supporting about 1,500 mining stakeholders to obtain collector and craftsman cards as well as organising artisanal miners into socio-professional groups. During the launch of this initiative on 16 December 2021 at Ketté, the said Secretariat revealed that between 2016 and 2021, 11,304.42 carats of diamond were traced in formal marketing networks, 5,923.46 carats were exported and CFAF 120,922,000²⁷⁵ was collected as taxes and duties from exporting the said diamond.

855- Moreover, a high-level meeting was held from 20 to 22 December 2021 in Yaounde, under the theme *Fight against fraud and smuggling of diamonds in Central Africa*, which brought together CEMAC Countries, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Angola. The meeting focused on drawing the attention of countries on the need to set up sub-regional cooperation, identify factors promoting trafficking and smuggling, define mechanisms and means of funding diamond-related activities and set up a framework for collaboration, dialogue and sharing of information.

C: Participation in the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (ITIE)²⁷⁶.

856- On 29 June 2021, the Ministry of Finance (MINFI) organised a workshop to present the 2018 ITIE Report in Yaounde. The said Report revealed that in 2018, revenue generated from extractive industries in Cameroon was over CFAF763,095,000,000²⁷⁷ and revenue targeted in the State budget stood at over CFAF568,032,000,000²⁷⁸.

857- Furthermore, the 2019 ITIE report was presented during a workshop organised on 19 November 2021 in Yaounde by MINFI. This other report showed that total payments made by extractive companies in 2019 stood at CFAF908,028,000,000²⁷⁹. This extractive sector generated budgetary revenues for the State worth CFAF703,091,000,000²⁸⁰, with over 90% coming from the hydrocarbons sector.

²⁷⁵ About 184,935.52 Euros.

²⁷⁶ The 2 ITIE reports published in 2021 are available online on the website: <https://eitcameroon.org/post/category/documentation/itie-reports>.

²⁷⁷ About 1,167,061,164.29 Euros.

²⁷⁸ About 868,735,986.05 Euros.

²⁷⁹ About 1,388,718,593.22 Euros.

²⁸⁰ About 1,075,292,330.66 Euros.

858- In addition, the Centre for Environment and Development organised a capacity-building workshop for local stakeholders in the East Region on ITIE on 8 December 2021 in Bertoua as part of the Project to *Strengthen the commitment of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative in Cameroon*.

SECTION 2: STRENGTHENING THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION AND MISAPPROPRIATION OF PUBLIC PROPERTY

859- Actions were intensified towards prevention, repression, detection, control, assistance and counselling.

§1: Prevention Initiatives

860- These include capacity-building, awareness-raising, information and communication.

A: Capacity-Building

861- Capacity-building activities were organised by the National Anti-Corruption Commission (NACC) and the Supreme State Audit (CONSUPE).

1) Capacity-building by NACC

862- NACC carried out capacity-building activities for its partners and 280 anti-corruption stakeholders. Thus, on 24 and 25 May 2021, NACC organised a capacity-building workshop in Yaounde for 146 anti-corruption stakeholders in Cameroon, namely religious leaders, members of CSOs and members of anti-corruption units; on 23 and 24 June 2021 a capacity-building workshop was organised in Douala for members of anti-corruption units and units in charge of monitoring the evaluation of the Rapid Results Initiatives' Plan of Action for 16 personnel of CAMWATER and it focused on the deadline to get a quotation for connection to the CAMWATER network; on 25 June 2021, a workshop for the consolidation and validation of the MINPROFF risk of corruption map was organised in Yaounde for 15 personnel of MINPROFF.

863- Furthermore, NACC organised a training workshop from 24 to 30 October 2021 in Kribi for 26 personnel of the Cameroon Real Estate Corporation (SIC) on combating corruption and setting up an anti-corruption

management system compliant to ISO Standard 37001 as well as a training workshop from 15 to 18 November 2021 in Mbalmayo for 16 ARMP personnel on anti-corruption techniques and implementation of RRI and a training workshop on 19 November 2021 in Yaounde for 19 MINTOUL personnel on anti-corruption techniques.

2) Capacity-Building by CONSUPE

864- CONSUPE organised a technical conference to raise awareness on risk management for 60 personnel of the Special Council Support Fund (FEICOM) on 4 June 2021 in Kribi. Furthermore, this institution organised a training workshop on the audit of information systems from 7 to 11 June 2021 in Douala for 30 FEICOM personnel; a workshop on initiation to performance audit from 2 to 6 August 2021 in Yaounde for 14 personnel of the Inspectorate General of the Ministry of Transport; a training workshop on the audit of information systems from 1 to 5 November 2021 in Ebolowa for 30 FEICOM personnel; a training workshop in November 2021 in Yaounde for personnel of the North West Development Authority relating to the renewed legal framework of public establishments and best practices in programming and planning the Programme Budget, for 10 personnel.

B: Awareness-raising, Information and Communication

865- NACC and CONSUPE organised awareness-raising, information and communication activities.

1) Information and Communication Activities

866- NACC produced and aired 21 editions of the “Espace CONAC” Radio Magazine lasting 13 minutes, 18 editions of “Espace CONAC” Television Programme lasting 13 minutes and 20 editions of Espace CONAC Alert TV lasting 6 minutes in English and in French on corruption-related offences and criminal sanctions. NACC further produced and distributed 2,000 copies of the Cameroon’s 2020 Anti-Corruption Status Report both in English and French. The said Report was made public on 20 November 2021.

2) Awareness-raising

867- Both CONSUPE and NACC carried out awareness raising activities.

a) Awareness-raising by CONSUPE

868- As part of the drive to strengthen citizen participation in the protection of public property, CONSUPE organised: the 2nd edition of the reflection days for the Trade Union of service providers for public contracts (SY-PREMAP) under the theme *Securing and protecting public property as part of managing public procurement for an emerging Cameroon* in April 2021 in Yaounde; a Round Table under the theme *Tax Agreements: stakes and challenges for inclusive and sustainable economic revival during the Covid-19 period in Cameroon* organised in June 2021 by the African Regional Centre for Endogenous and Community Development; the second annual meeting of the CONSUPE-CSO²⁸¹ cooperation platform in November 2021; and the 3rd citizen dialogue day with the ADIN-CRADEC-Transparency International consortium in December 2021 under the theme *Budget governance and health crisis: state of preservation of public property to guarantee Human Rights in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic in Cameroon*.

869- Moreover, on 7 December 2021, CONSUPE organised a day for the dissemination of the 1st and 2nd pilot audits of the mining sector it carried out and which focused on *Compliance in authorising renewals and research permit transactions in the Adamawa and East Regions* and on *Management of environmental and social liabilities relating to semi-mechanised mining and crafts, for the 2015-2018 period*.

b) Awareness-raising by NACC

870- NACC carried out the “corrupt-free AFCON 2021” campaign during which 10 giant posters were put up on bill boards in the cities of Yaounde, Douala, Limbe and Buea. Some 6 roll-ups were put up at the Yaounde and Douala International Airports. Awareness-raising material were distributed at the said airports notably copies of the NACC Newsletter, Cameroon’s 2019 Anti-Corruption Status Report and the document titled *2010-2020, a decade of combating corruption in Cameroon: Progress made*.

871- On 9 February 2021, NACC launched a campaign in Yoko to promote integrity among youths in school under the theme “Do not touch what does

²⁸¹ This platform aims to help strengthen the monitoring chain of public finance management by increasing communication between CONSUPE and CSOs and reflecting on mechanisms to enable CSOs guarantee citizen monitoring of CONSUPE audit results.

not belong to you". NACC President carried out an integrity tour of 8 schools in the locality and put up the first anti-corruption posters on the walls of the Sub-divisional Office and the City Hall. Overall, posters were put up on the walls of 14 public services in Yoko; 2 Teachers and 50 pupils received attestations of congratulations and encouragement; 10,000 copies of the different editions of "NACC Newsletter", 2,000 flyers bearing the campaign slogan, 1,000 stickers bearing the Toll Free Number (1517), 200 copies of the document titled *2010-2020, a decade of combating corruption: progress made* and 150 copies of the 2019 report on the fight against corruption in Cameroon were distributed. Also, during this campaign, the message to combat corruption was spread to 20,000 persons.

872- On 23 March 2021, NACC participated as an observer at a plenary session of the National Assembly dedicated to road safety and prevention initiated by the Cameroon Legislators Network for road safety. For this occasion, NACC produced a leaflet on its activities towards preventing corruption on public ways and the content helped members of this Network to make recommendations. In the same vein, on 8 April 2021, the National Assembly held a special plenary session to present progress made in combating corruption in Cameroon and NACC's expectations.

873- Similarly, NACC commemorated the 2021 edition of the African Anti-Corruption Day in its Conference Hall on 11 July 2021 on the theme: *Regional Economic Communities, main stakeholders of the implementation of the African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption*. During the commemoration on 9 December 2021 of the 18th edition of the International Anti-Corruption Day under the theme "Your right, your role: Say no to corruption", NACC organised a training workshop in Yaounde for Journalists from 50 national media on combating corruption under the theme; *"Journalists: watchdogs in the fight against corruption"*.

874- From 16 to 29 August 2021, NACC organised a "corruption-free 2021-2022 back to school" campaign. On this occasion, 241 secondary schools were visited, 540 anti-corruption posts were put up on the walls of buildings as well as 1,121 posters. NACC teams also distributed flyers describing how to denounce acts of corruption, copies of the document titled: *2010-2020, a decade of combating corruption in Cameroon: progress made* and copies of the recent editions of the monthly "CONAC Newsletter".

875- Furthermore, NACC continued the operation to put up anti-corruption posters on walls of public buildings. From 1 to 4 November 2021, the operation was carried out in 5 divisional headquarters and 18 sub-divisional headquarters in the Adamawa, Centre, East, North, West and South Regions. During this time, 335 anti-corruption posters were put up on walls of public buildings. NACC also produced and disseminated 60,000 copies of the monthly "CONAC Newsletter", 5,000 copies of the NACC Code of Ethics booklet, 2,000 T-shirts, 2,000 caps, 2,000 bags with printed anti-corruption messages, 10,000 stickers, 40,000 flyers and 400 anti-corruption posters.

§2: Control, Support and Advisory Activities

876- These activities were carried out by the National Agency for Financial Investigation (NAFI), NACC, CONSUPE and the Audit Bench of the Supreme Court.

A: Activities of NAFI

877- NAFI received 771 suspicious reports (compared to 785 in 2020) and 373 files (as opposed to 98 in 2020) were forwarded to the judicial authorities for offences relating to money laundering, misappropriation of public property, corruption, tax fraud, customs fraud among others.

878- Moreover, on 12 January 2021, NAFI published the National money laundering and terrorism financing risk assessment report including a Plan of priority actions for the period 2021-2025. This Plan focuses on the following thrusts: strengthening the legal and institutional framework, developing a national coordination framework for actions to be undertaken by several administrations, strengthening the mechanism for control and supervision of authorities in charge of prevention and improving the efficiency of authorities in charge of investigation and prosecution.

879- A delegation from Cameroon led by NAFI defended this Report during a session of the Task Force on Money Laundering in Central Africa (GABAC) which held in Douala from 18 to 22 October 2021. The objective of the examination of the Report by the said Task Force was to assess Cameroon's conformity with the recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF).

B: Activities of NACC

880- NACC examined reports and carried out control and investigation missions.

1) Complaints Received

881- Fewer complaints were received in 2021. In effect, NACC received 6,573 reports (compared to 16,067 in 2020) with 2,694 from calls on the toll-free number and 4,006 (compared to 3,392 in 2020) received through the WhatsApp number (658 262 682), electronic and administrative mails.

882- Among calls received on the toll-free number (1517), 1,536 were unrelated to corruption and 1,158 were reports on acts of corruption and related offences. Such reports received were either forwarded to the President of NACC (319) or resolved by telephone call through Inspectors of regional services or Inspectors of services in the ministries concerned (552). In some cases, the callers were directed to other competent bodies including the CHRC, MINJUSTICE and CONSUPE or advised to write complaints to the president of NACC (287).

883- Besides complaints from foreign countries, most complaints came from the cities of Douala, Yaounde, Bafoussam and Maroua. Very few complaints came from the North West and South West Regions. By ascending order of the complaints, the sectors concerned included road transport, finance (customs, treasury, taxation), Forces of Law and Order (FLO), education, justice, territorial administration, trade, council services, forestry and wildlife, land tenure and health.

2) Control and Investigation Activities

884- In all, 5 investigations were concluded (compared to 2 in 2020) and 16 rapid intervention missions (as opposed to 19 in 2020) for several cases of fraud and corruption were carried out. As for the reports which proved to be true, 12 suspects were handed over to the judicial police. Also, in 2021, NACC instituted 11 proceedings before competent courts for corruption and related offences compared to 25 in 2020.

C: Activities of CONSUPE

885- CONSUPE examined reports and carried out controls.

1) Examination of Complaints

886- The Department of Legal Affairs and Information Exploitation (DAJEI) received fewer complaints as shown in the table below. There were 77 complaints as opposed to 212 in 2019 and 301 in 2020.

Table 1: Complaints Received and Examined

Origin of complaints	Number of complaints	Public Establishment concerned	Complaints which resulted in special missions	Complaints which resulted in missions to cross check information	Pending files
Individuals	14	Public Administrations	1	2	0
Private companies	10	Public administrative establishments			
CSOs	20	Public enterprises			
Associations	18	Semi-Public enterprises			
Trade Unions	15	Private Corporations			
TOTAL	77		1	2	0

Source: CONSUPE

2) Complaints Examined by the Inspection and Control Divisions

887- The Inspection and Control Divisions received 114 complaints in 2021 compared to 139 in 2020.

Table 2: Comparative Summary of Complaints received and examined

Operational Units	Number of complaints received		Number of complaints examined		complaints which resulted in special missions		complaints which resulted in missions to cross check information		Pending files	
	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021
DIESP	20	10	11	8	1	0	0	1	5	0
DICTD	92	48	92	48	1	0	4	3	0	0
DIAP	15	45	15	45	6	0	0	0	0	0
DIEPOS	12	12	12	12	1	1	1	1	0	0
Total	139	114	130	123	15	1	5	4	5	0

Source: CONSUPE

Key:

DIAP: Inspection and Control Divisions for Public Administrations

DICTD: Inspection and Control Divisions for Regional and Local Authorities

DIEPOS: Inspection and Control Divisions for Public Establishments and Specific Institutions

DIESP: Inspection and Control Divisions for Public and Semi-public Enterprises.

3) Controls Carried Out

888- Some 20 control missions were carried out by Inspection and Control Divisions in 2021 compared to 22 in 2020. After examination, 6 reports were forwarded to the Presidency of the Republic.

Table 3: Comparative Table of Control Missions carried out by Inspection and Control Divisions

Operational Units	Missions initiated		Missions completed		Pending missions		Number of reports forwarded to the Presidency of the Republic	
	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021
DIESP	3	3	0	3	2	3	4	2
DICTD	1	1	0	0	1	2	1	1
DIAP	10	8	5	5	5	1	3	2
DIEPOS	8	8	4	4	3	3	1	1
Total	22	20	9	12	11	9	9	6

Source: CONSUPE

D: Activities of the Audit Bench of the Supreme Court

889- In addition to controls, the Audit Bench of the Supreme Court carried out audit activities and certification of public policies.

1) Judicial and Administrative Controls

890- The Audit Bench examined the efficiency and effectiveness of actions undertaken by public institutions and judicial control of their operations. Thus, controls of the management of 1 public establishment and 7 public corporations were carried out and resulted in the drafting of 8 examination reports (6 provisional and 2 final).

891- With regard to judicial control, the Division in charge of Controlling and Ruling on Accounts Produced by State Accountants drafted 20 exa-

mination reports for interim observations, the Division in charge of Controlling and Ruling on Accounts Produced by Regional and Local Authorities and their Establishments drafted 60, and the Division in charge of Controlling and Ruling on Accounts Produced by Public Establishments of the State drafted 147.

2) Audit and Certification of Public Policies

a) Audit of Covid-19 Funds

892- On 16 July 2020, the Audit Bench included on its agenda, the audit of the “Special National Solidarity Fund to Fight the Corona virus and its Economic and Social Impacts” which was allocated CFAF 180,000,000,000²⁸². Its first report on the activities carried out by MIN-SANTE, MINRESI and MINFI during the 2020 Financial Year was adopted on 4 June 2021. The control concerned the proper use of the funds as well as the efficiency of Government policy.

893- In view of remarks made and irregularities observed, the Audit Bench drafted 30 recommendations and decided to initiate 14 proceedings for improper management. The Audit Bench planned to institute proceedings for mismanagement of public funds by unauthorised persons and forwarded 12 reports to MINJUSTICE relating to matters which could be considered criminal.

b) Certification of Forms for Declaring Revenue in the Extractive Industry Sector

894- The Audit Bench certified forms for revenue declaration in the extractive industry sector for the 2018 and 2019 financial years as part of the ITIE. This certification sought to ensure that revenue collected from exploiting the wealthy extractive industry sector be included in the State budget.

895- At the end of its deliberations, the Audit Bench of the Supreme Court noted persisting incoherencies after the resolution of some irregularities observed, representing 0.08% of revenue declared in 2018 and 2019. This gap was not considered substantial given that it stood below the threshold of 2% by ITIE standards. These incoherencies have no bearing on the authenticity of the data, which was declared compliant and sincere.

²⁸² About 275,288,148.36 Euros

c) Audit of Phase II of the Support Programme to the Transport Sector²⁸³ (PAST 2)

896- MINTP assigned the Audit Bench to carry out the accounting and financial audit of PAST 2 for the 2018, 2019 and 2020 financial years. The aim was to give an opinion on the financial status of the programme and make recommendations on accounting and internal control procedures. The work was completed between May and September 2021 with the drafting of 4 Reports: 3 financial audit reports and 1 accounting report, which all concluded that the financial statements established portrayed in all significant aspects a faithful picture of the PAST 2 financial situation. A report of recommendations was drafted to improve the internal control procedures of the said Programme.

d) Report on the Certification of the General Account of the State and the Opinion on the Draft Settlement Bill for the 2020 Financial Year

897- In September 2021, the Audit Bench of the Supreme Court examined the General Account of the State for the 2020 financial year. While noting the lack of significant progress, it highlighted shortcomings already observed in the audit of previous financial years. It also drafted 17 observations on which it based certification pending amendments.

898- The settlement bill drafted after the execution of the finance law for the 2020 financial year and forwarded to the Audit Bench for its Opinion showed revenue collected to the tune of CFAF4,482,385,479,585²⁸⁴ and expenditure of CFAF4,363,505,742,004²⁸⁵, that is a budgetary surplus of CFAF118,879,737,581²⁸⁶. Consideration of this led the court to draft 34 observations relating to form and the substance.

²⁸³ Funded by the African Development Bank, the African Development Fund and the Government of Cameroon, PAST 2 aims to contribute to the opening up and enhancement of agricultural potential and increase trade between the regions of Cameroon.

²⁸⁴ About 6,855,264,438.39 Euros

²⁸⁵ About 6,673,452,311.53 Euros

²⁸⁶ About 181,812,126.87 Euros

§3: Detection Actions

899- Detection actions mainly concerned capacity-building for staff in charge of detection. CONSUPE organised several training workshops in Yaounde: from 11 to 21 January 2021, 25 Auditors participated in a workshop on *conducting a compliance audit on the mining sector*; from 15 to 19 February 2021, 10 Auditors from CONSUPE and 5 personnel from the Audit Bench of the Supreme Court attended a workshop on *attestation of declaration of revenue in the extractive industry sector as part of the ITIE process*; from 15 to 19 March 2021, 30 Auditors from CONSUPE attended another workshop on *the consideration of issues of fraud and corruption in audits in the mining sector*; from 24 May to 4 June 2021, 30 Auditors from CONSUPE attended a workshop on *conducting a performance audit in the mining sector*; and from 13 to 17 November 2021, 20 Auditors attended a workshop on *"compliance audit in the mining sector"*.

900- From 28 to 30 April 2021 in Douala, NAFI held a capacity-building seminar for MINMIDT personnel on the fight against money laundering and terrorism financing. From 4 to 8 October 2021 in Kribi, Staff from NAFI attended a training workshop for security forces on digital investigation techniques and cyber-defence strategies organised by ANTIC.

§4: Punishment of Perpetrators

901- Punishment of perpetrators of acts of corruption and misappropriation of public property continued through administrative and judicial sanctions.

A: Administrative Sanctions

902- The Budget and Financial Disciplinary Council (BFDC) examined several files and rendered decisions subject to appeal as presented in the table below:

Table 4: Files Received and Examined from 2019 to 2021

Year Indicators	2019	2020	2021
Number of files received at CONSUPE	5	5	4
Number of cases forwarded to BFDC	48	248	6
Number of cases examined	32	42	47
Number of decisions rendered and published	14	26	27

Source: CONSUPE

903- BFDC rendered 27 decisions including 11 sanctions, 9 acquittals and 7 decisions on want of jurisdiction. No complaint was forwarded to MINJUSTICE.

Table 5: Comparative Table of Sanctions Imposed on Dishonest Managers

Year Sanctions passed	2019		2020		2021	
Amount of deficits and special fines	Deficits	Special Fines	Deficits	Special Fines	Deficits	Special Fines
	CFAF 2 733 911 861 ²⁸⁷	CFAF 18 400 000 ²⁸⁸	CFAF 1 47 666 435 ²⁸⁹	CFAF 7 900 000 ²⁹⁰	CFAF 598 843 710	CFAF 8 800 000
Persons with deficits	8	11	6	7	5	8

Source: CONSUPE

904- Regarding petitions, the Yaounde Administrative Court received 1 complaint against a decision of BFDC.

B: Judicial Sanctions

905- These include sanctions imposed by the Special Criminal Court (SCC) and by other courts.

²⁸⁷ About 4,153,494.61 Euros.

²⁸⁸ About 27,954.19 Euros.

²⁸⁹ About 224,342.18 Euros.

²⁹⁰ About 12,002.07 Euros.

1) Litigation Relating to Misappropriation of Public Property before the SCC

906- In 2021, litigation relating to misappropriation of public property before the SCC increased with 73 matters enlisted for hearing as opposed to 65 in 2020.

Table 6: Comparative Table on Proceedings

Year \ Number	Number of matters enlisted	Number of judgements delivered	Number of convictions	Number of discharges or acquittals	Number of proceedings discontinued
2019	66	19	48	18	6
2020	65	20	43	64	19
2021	73 ²⁹¹	31 ²⁹²	37	16	4

Source: MINJUSTICE

907- The number of preliminary inquiries increased to 46 compared to 34 in 2020.

Table 7: Comparative Table on Preliminary Inquiries

Year \ No.	Number of preliminary inquiries	Number of preliminary inquiries completed	Number of persons brought before the SCC for trial	Number of persons who benefited from no-case rulings
2019	54	27	104	7
2020	34	18	90	6
2021	46	30	60	10

Source: MINJUSTICE

2) Litigation before other Courts

908- As concerns acts of corruption, the number of files recorded reduced.

²⁹¹ Hence 45 old and 28 new.

²⁹² Hence 8 ADD, 2 officially acknowledged and 21 on the substance.

Table 8: Comparative Table of Judgements Delivered in matters of Corruption

No. Year	Number of Judicial police investigations	Number of files at preliminary inquiry	Number of judgements	Number of convictions	Number of discharges or acquittals
2019	20	2	14	8	1
2020	73	6	69	38	20
2021	45	3	44	10	2

Source: MINJUSTICE

909- Concerning the misappropriation of public property, the number of proceedings increased.

Table 9: Comparative Table of Judgements Delivered on Misappropriation of Public Property

No. Year	Number of judicial police investigations	Number of files at the level of preliminary inquiry	Number of judgements	Number of convictions	Number of discharges or acquittals
2019	135	130	94	52	24
2020	148	141	169	57	17
2021	185	171	140	86	2

Source: MINJUSTICE

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910- In a nutshell, the year under review was rife with initiatives towards strengthening the quality of governance and combating corruption and related offences. Thus, although the Cameroon Business Forum did not take place, the Government continued dialogue with the private sector while applying the principles of transparency and attracting investment.

CHAPTER 3

DETENTION CONDITIONS

911- The Government continued implementing its programme to improve penitentiary policy which aims to improve detention conditions and prepare the social reintegration of detainees. In this vein, evaluation of the prison population provided information on challenges to overcome, prison resources, quality of care of detainees and visits as well as controls which could enable the making of adjustments.

SECTION 1: PRISON POPULATION

912- The prison population is presented under the general number of detainees and specific categories.

§1: General Number of Detainees

913- The number of detainees increased. As at 31 December 2021, there were 30,567 detainees (compared to 26,800 in 2020, that is, an increase of 3,667 detainees) including 18,987 pre-trial detainees and 11,580 convicts. Pre-trial detainees represented 62% of the prison population and convicts 38%.

914- According to the penitentiary map, detainees were incarcerated in 81 prisons with a capacity of 18,350 places, that is, an occupancy rate of 157%. These rates stood at 221% in 2018, 189% in 2019 and 137% in 2020.

915- The lowest occupancy rate was registered in the North West Region (90%) while the highest was in the Littoral Region (300%). The occupancy rate varied according to prisons. For example, with a capacity of 100 places, the Edea Main prison had 480 detainees, thus an occupancy rate of 480%. With capacities of 100, 70 and 200 places respectively, the Ngambe and Makary Secondary prisons and the Yaounde Main prison only had 9, 11 and 148 detainees, hence occupancy rates of 9%, 15.71% and 74% respectively. Prisons in the North West Region had a low occupancy rate, that is, 27 detainees for 120 places at the Mbengwi Main Prison, 26 detainees for 200 places at the Wum Main Prison, 12 detainees for 300 places at the Kumbo Main Prison, 34 detainees for 100 places at the Nkambe Main Prison and 609 detainees for 700 places at the Bamenda Central Prison.

MINJUSTICE

Report of the Ministry of Justice on
Human Rights in Cameroon in 2021

916- As shown in the table below, the highest number of pre-trial detainees was registered in the prisons of the Centre and Littoral Regions. The North West and South West Regions had the lowest numbers.

Table 1: Regional Statistics of pre- trial Detainees

PRISONS	PRE-TRIAL DETAINEES								TOTAL
	MEN		WOMEN		MINORS				
					BOYS		GIRLS		
	N	F	N	F	N	F	N	F	
Adamawa	926	41	24	0	68	1	0	0	1,060
Centre	4,930	64	176	3	203	2	4	0	5,382
East	863	99	47	3	75	3	1	0	1,091
Far North	1,771	298	79	11	82	17	7	0	2,265
Littoral	3,476	70	98	4	102	2	1	0	3,753
North	1,313	122	15	3	40	1	0	0	1,494
North West	393	2	13	0	18	0	0	0	426
West	1,407	11	42	0	88	0	0	0	1,548
South	650	43	33	0	31	0	1	0	758
South West	1,043	80	46	0	33	3	4	1	1,210
Grand Total	16772	830	573	24	740	29	18	1	18,987

Source: MINJUSTICE

Key: N= Nationals, F= Foreigners.

917- The table below shows that the highest number of convicts was in the Centre and Littoral Regions. The North West and South Regions had the lowest numbers. The Kumbo Main Prison and the Ndikinimeki, Ngambe, Betare-oya, Doume and Lomie Secondary Prisons among others only had convicts.

Table 2: Regional Statistics of Convicts

CATEGORIES	CONVICTS								TOTAL
	MEN		WOMEN		MINORS				
					BOYS		GIRLS		
PRISONS	N	F	N	F	N	F	N	F	
Adamawa	583	60	9	1	11	0	0	0	664
Centre	2,290	27	64	3	15	0	1	0	2,400
East	847	128	17	1	7	3	0	0	1,003
Far North	982	69	18	4	14	2	3	0	1,092
Littoral	2,196	33	44	0	10	0	0	0	2,283
North	1,142	129	15	1	10	0	0	0	1,297
North West	291	5	5	0	12	0	0	0	313
West	1,148	2	31	0	15	1	1	0	1,198
South	547	12	9	2	2	0	0	0	572
South West	696	43	9	2	8	0	0	0	758
Grand Total	10 722	508	221	14	104	6	5	0	11,580

Source: MINJUSTICE

918- In several prisons, particularly in all the Central Prisons, there were separate quarters for men and women as well as for minors. The quarters for minors were only occupied by boys, while girls shared the quarters reserved for women. In prisons where there were no separate quarters, well-defined areas were reserved for women and minors.

919- Due to inadequate space, pre-trial detainees were not always separated from convicts. The Penitentiary Administration continued to ensure that recidivists and convicts or persons prosecuted for serious offenses were separated from other detainees as much as possible. Consequently, in the Yaounde Central Prison, separate sections were reserved for persons sentenced to death.

§2: Specific Categories of Detainees

920- The main specific categories of detainees include foreigners, minors and women.

A: Female Detainees

921- There were 832 women (that is, 2.72% of the prison population) compared to 841 in 2018, 726 in 2019 and 717 in 2020 (representing 2.64%, 2.37% and 2.76% respectively of the prison population).

922- There were 597 female pre-trial detainees and 235 female convicts. The Yoko, Mbengwi and Kumbo Main Prisons and the Ndikinimeki Secondary Prison, among others, had no female detainee.

923- The table below reveals that there were fewer women in prisons in the North West and North Regions and more women in prisons in the Centre and Littoral Regions.

Table 3: Statistics of Women in Prison as at 31 December 2021

PRISONS	PRE-TRIAL DETAINEES		CONVICTS		TOTAL
	Nationals	Foreigners	Nationals	Foreigners	
Adamawa	24	0	9	1	34
Centre	176	3	64	3	246
East	47	3	17	1	68
Far North	79	11	18	4	112
Littoral	98	4	44	0	146

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PRISONS	PRE-TRIAL DETAINEES		CONVICTS		TOTAL
	Nationals	Foreigners	Nationals	Foreigners	
North	15	3	15	1	34
North West	13	0	5	0	18
West	42	0	31	0	73
South	33	0	9	2	44
South West	46	0	9	2	57
Grand Total	573	24	221	14	832

Source: MINJUSTICE

924- Note that 39 female detainees had their children with them, most of whom were born before their mothers were imprisoned. For example, 11 of such women were in prison in the West Region and 7 in the Centre Region.

925- There were challenges in dealing with this category of detainees, in terms of the specific needs (food, health and clothing) of the women concerned and of their children. Thus, caring for them required hygiene products, clothing, medications or even adequate food, which were not always available. In any event, the presence of these children beside their mothers in prison was allowed in the best interest of the children.

B: Minors in Prison

926- There were 905 (that is, 2.96% of the prison population), including 881 boys and 24 girls compared to, 886 in 2019 and 823 in 2020. Many prisons had separate sections for minors.

927- Several Main and Secondary Prisons including those of Sa'a, Kouseri, Makary, Nanga-Eboko, Meiganga, Tibati, Bangangte, Yabassi, Bazou, Yokadouma and Batouri, etc., did not have a separate quarter for minors. Some prisons, such as the Nkambe, Yoko, Mbengwi, Wum, Kumbo Main Prisons and the Ngambe Secondary Prison did not have minors in prison.

928- In some prisons, measures were not often taken for proper care for minors particularly as regards bedding, feeding and especially their preparation for reintegration in society. This concerns education, social welfare, professional training and socio-cultural activities. As such, in the prisons of the West Region, no child was sent to school. The same applied in several other prisons such as the Bafia Main Prison.

929- Whether Cameroonians or foreigners, there were more minors in prisons in the Centre and Far North Regions and less in the South and North West Regions. The table below gives details of this.

Table 4: Statistics of Minors in Prison as at 31 December 2021

Categories	PRE-TRIAL DETAINEES				CONVICTS				TOTAL
	BOYS		GIRLS		BOYS		GIRLS		
	N	F	N	F	N	F	N	F	
Prisons									
Adamawa	68	1	0	0	11	0	0	0	80
Centre	203	2	4	0	15	0	1	0	225
East	75	3	1	0	7	3	0	0	89
Far North	82	17	7	0	14	2	3	0	125
Littoral	102	2	1	0	10	0	0	0	115
North	40	1	0	0	10	0	0	0	51
North West	18	0	0	0	12	0	0	0	30
West	88	0	0	0	15	1	1	0	105
South	33	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	36
South West	33	3	4	1	8	0	0	0	49
Grand Total	742	29	18	1	104	6	5	0	905

Source: MINJUSTICE

N: Nationals

F: Foreigners

C: Foreigners in Prison

930- In 2021 there were 1,376 foreigners in prison compared to 1,285 in 2020, 1,450 in 2019 and 1,602 in 2018. Diplomatic missions carried out consular visits to detainees within their jurisdiction pursuant to Article 36 of the Vienna Convention on diplomatic relations.

931- The highest number of foreigners in prison were Nigerians. With 854 pre-trial detainees and 522 convicts. The prisons in the Far North and East Regions registered the highest number of foreign detainees. Among these foreigners, 37 were refugees. For example, there were refugees in the Poli (2), Guider (12), Tchollire (8) and Yagoua (9) Main Prisons.

SECTION 2: DEVELOPMENT OF PENITENTIARY RESOURCES

932- Human, material and infrastructural resources within the Penitentiary Administration were developed.

§1: Development of Human Resources

933- The number of penitentiary administration personnel remained relatively stable, capacity-building was carried out and ethics was consolidated.

A: Relative Stability in Personnel Numbers

934- During the year under review, no recruitment was carried out. There was a total of 4,378 penitentiary personnel, that is a ratio of 1 staff member to 7 detainees. The slight decrease could be explained by retirements (59), deaths (19) and dismissals (8).

935- Some prisons had more personnel than detainees. This was the case with the Makary (14 personnel for 12 detainees), Ngambe (20 personnel for 9 detainees) and Doukoula (14 personnel for 11 detainees) Secondary Prisons as well as the Kumbo Main Prison (23 personnel for 12 detainees).

936- Disaggregated statistics of penitentiary personnel are shown in the table below.

Table 5: Number of Penitentiary Administration Personnel as at 31 December 2021

Grade	M	F	Number	(%) M	(%) F	(%)
AP	158	41	199	79.40	20.60	100
SP	295	92	387	76.23	23.77	100
CPW	629	238	867	72.55	27.45	100
PW	2159	749	2908	74.24	25.76	100
Civilians	17	0	17	100	0	100

Source: MINJUSTICE

Key:

AP: Administrator of Prisons

SP: Superintendent of Prisons

CPW: Chief Prison Warder

PW: Prison Warder

937- Some of these personnel had specific skills as illustrated in the table below.

Table 6: Number of Penitentiary Administration Personnel by Speciality

No.	SPECIALITY	NUMBER OF PERSONNEL
1	Medical Doctors	23
2	State Registered Nurses	63
3	Nursing Aides	123
4	Psychopathologists	1
5	Veterinary Doctors	2
6	Computer Scientists	4
7	Agricultural Engineers	2
8	Civil Engineers	2
9	Medico-Sanitary Technicians	33
10	Sports and Physical Education Staff	13
11	Social workers MINJUSTICE	5
12	Social Welfare personnel	15
14	Agriculture Technicians	10
15	Livestock Technicians	10
16	Drivers	7
TOTAL		313

Source: MINJUSTICE

938- In 2021, 1,625 staff members of the Penitentiary Administration were advanced in grade while 1,188 were advanced in incremental position and 98 received diverse medals.

B: Capacity-building for Penitentiary Personnel

939- Capacity-building activities were organised for penitentiary personnel to maintain and improve their skills and professional abilities. Consequently, 420 staff members attended in-service training at the National School of Penitentiary Administration (ENAP) in Buea while many others attended specific trainings. These include 10 in health (on 3 August 2021 in Yaounde), 2 on protection of civilians during peace keeping operations (from 14 to 18 June 2021 at EFORCES), 12 on recruitment in peace keeping missions (from 9 to 11 and 23 to 25 September 2021 in Yaounde), 3 on improvised explosive devices (from 15 to 19 November 2021 in Yaounde), and 13 on statistics. Indeed, from 1 to 3 February 2021 at Mban-komo, penitentiary personnel took part in a training workshop on the setting up of a judicial and penitentiary statistics information system, organised by MINJUSTICE with the support of the Delegation of the European Union to Cameroon. The goal was to train them to collect and process statistics.

940- With regard to Human Rights, Penitentiary Administration personnel attended workshops on deprivation of liberty, the rights of the child (see § 66) and on the international protection of refugees, internally displaced persons and stateless persons (from 1 to 3 February 2021 at Mbankomo with 13 personnel in attendance).

C: Consolidation of Ethics within Penitentiary Services

941- In addition to a reminder of the principle of hierarchical subordination and sanctions for offences committed by Penitentiary Administration personnel, penitentiary services were controlled and evaluated.

1) Principle of Hierarchical Subordination

942- During the Annual Meeting of Heads of Court and Regional Delegates of Penitentiary Administration organised by MINJUSTICE on 18 and 19 October 2021, the issue of hierarchical subordination within the Penitentiary Administration was discussed. It focused on the normative and institutional basis for such subordination. In this regard, the hierarchy and functional organisation of Penitentiary Administration as well as the obligation by subordinates to obey orders from their hierarchy were considered. Moreover, mention was made of the inappropriateness of executing a clearly illegal order and on the other hand, disciplinary sanctions that resulted from non-respect of hierarchical subordination.

943- After the deliberations, a recommendation was made for Regional Delegates of Penitentiary Administration to call penitentiary personnel to order and sanction perpetrators or accomplices of the escape of prisoners. It was also recommended that, training for the said personnel be reinforced with special emphasis on morality and code of ethics.

2) Control and Evaluation of Penitentiary Services

944- To ensure that prisons are managed according to the law and that the rights of detainees are protected, the Inspectorate General of Penitentiary Administration (IGAPEN) of MINJUSTICE carried out controls of documents and field controls.

945- Control of documents consisted in the consideration of statements and reports transmitted by Regional Delegates of Penitentiary Administration. These documents were analysed and summarised to enable the Minister

of Justice have an overview of the quality of the functioning and efficiency of penitentiary services. On the field, IGAPEN controlled the Ngaoundere Central Prison and the Foumban and Batouri Main Prisons.

946- As part of the fight against corruption, during control missions, IGAPEN, Regional Delegates of Penitentiary Administration and Prison Superintendents raised awareness among personnel, detainees and visitors on the negative effects of corruption and on the fact that public service is free of charge. Moreover, IGAPEN received and addressed several complaints against personnel.

3) Punishing Offences committed by Prison Personnel

947- Disciplinary sanctions were passed against prison personnel. These included layoff (21), suspension from duty (5), written warning (4), reprimand recorded in the file (24), temporary suspension (17), deferment in increment (1) and dismissal (8).

948- Concerning **judicial proceedings**, 7 prison personnel were in detention. One of them was Major Prison Warder **E.N**, working at the Bertoua Central Prison. An Examining Magistrate of the Lom-and-Djerem High Court charged him as a co-offender of capital murder and issued a remand warrant against him on 29 July 2021.

§2: Development of Material and Infrastructural Resources

949- A strategic study was carried out in view of increasing the number of prisons. Also, some prisons were either constructed or renovated.

A: Strategic Studies in view of increasing the Number of Prisons

950- In November 2021, a team from the Division for Research and Planning of MINJUSTICE undertook strategic studies in view of increasing the number of prisons to align the prison map with the administrative map. During field visits to the Centre, Littoral and West Regions, sites where new prisons could be constructed were identified in the localities of Pouma, Tonga, Obala and Mbandjock.

B: Construction and Renovation of Prisons

951- The renovation and extension of the Djoum Main Prison was completed.

952- Inadequate financial resources were a major challenge as regards the renovation of prisons with dilapidated infrastructure. This was the case for the Tibati and Abong-Mbang Main Prisons where the fences were almost in ruins. Furthermore, land titles had not been obtained over some prisons, thus cases of encroachment were recorded.

SECTION 3: STRENGTHENING THE QUALITY OF CARE FOR DETAINEES

953- In addition to food security, health coverage, hygiene and sanitation measures, energy supply, sociocultural and social welfare activities as well as activities in preparation for social reintegration helped improve the detention conditions of detainees.

§1: Food Security

954- To ensure that, at normal mealtimes, detainees receive good quality food with sufficient nutritive value to keep them healthy, a budget of CFAF 5,015,000 000²⁹³ (compared to CFAF 5,015,891,000²⁹⁴ in 2020) was allocated, that is an average food ration of CFAF 531²⁹⁵ per day and per detainee in 2021, compared to CFAF 512²⁹⁶ in 2020 and 2019 and CFAF 400.13²⁹⁷ in 2018.

955- The meals, on average 2 to 3 per day, consisted mainly of palm oil, groundnut, meat, fresh and dried fish, maize, beans, soya, millet, cassava, rice, vegetables, tomato, okra, sorghum, etc. Children and sick persons generally had an extra meal. To reduce cooking cost, several prisons had improved stoves. For the same reasons, the Maroua Central Prison used biogas.

§2: Health Coverage for Detainees

956- Owing to the health situation, an appraisal of the Covid-19 response was made. Health coverage comprised a general situation and specific situations.

²⁹³ About 7,656,488.55 Euros.

²⁹⁴ About 7,657,848.85 Euros.

²⁹⁵ About 0.81 Euros.

²⁹⁶ About 0.78 Euro.

²⁹⁷ About 0.61 Euro.

A: Appraisal of Covid-19 Response

957- During the 25 March 2021 Cabinet Meeting dedicated to an evaluation of the Covid-19 situation in Cameroon, the Minister of Justice presented an appraisal of the response in prisons since the start of the pandemic. He began by commending the quality of collaboration between the authorities in charge of prisons and those of MINSANTE for the adequate care given to patients that led in only 2 deaths which occurred during transfers to specialised treatment centres.

958- He went on to remark that the increase in contaminations, the worst period being in January 2021, was at times challenging for local MINSANTE facilities, including those in the Far North, Centre, East, Littoral and West Regions which, overwhelmed, were not able to supply sufficient testing kits and medications. A suggestion was made to provide nurses of the 10 Central Prisons with sufficient quantities of drugs for the treatment of detainees and sick persons as well as test kits, protection masks, hand sanitizers, thermo-flashes, disinfectant sprays and individual protective equipment for the medical personnel (suits, gloves, boots, goggles...).

959- In terms of logistics, the Medical Centre of the Yaounde Prison was approved by MINSANTE as a Covid-19 testing and immunisation centre. Open to the public, this health facility continued to work, helping to relieve other approved centres.

960- For the period under review in particular, the situation was as follows:

Table 7: Covid-19 response appraisal in 2021

Regions	Detainees tested	Detainees who were positive and Rate of prevalence	Detainees vaccinated		
			1 st dose (Sinopharm or Astra Zeneca)	2 nd dose	Single Dose (Jonhson & Jonhson)
Adamawa	730	30 (4.1%)	897	630	237
Centre	4,540	505 (11.1%)	1,565	454	3
East	1,484	315 (21.2%)	199	0	20
Far North	1,066	18 (1.7%)	1,934	1,210	449
Littoral	127	12 (9.4%)	429	127	0
North	0		1,359	448	26
North West	325	9	90	0	0
West	44,492	222 (4.9%)	1,771	1,771	199
South	578	49 (8.5%)	861	124	0
South West	735	62 (8.4%)	0	0	0
Grand Total	14,077	1,213 (8.6%)	9,105	4,764	735

Source: MINJUSTICE

B: General Situation of Detainees' Health Coverage

961- The budget allocated for health coverage stood at CFAF 1,050,000,000²⁹⁸ compared to CFAF 1,015,000,000²⁹⁹ in 2020, that is, CFAF 25,875³⁰⁰ per year and per detainee. This represents a significant increase, compared to the budget of 2017 which was CFAF 150,640 00³⁰¹. However, this budget remains insufficient.

962- Moreover, most prisons had an infirmary in charge of catering for the physical and mental health of detainees. Some prisons, such as the Eseka Main Prison and the Sa'a Secondary Prison did not have any. These infirmaries had medical personnel, sometimes in insufficient numbers.

963- Moreover, technical equipment in several infirmaries needed to be upgraded. In this vein, the technical equipment of the Medical Centre of the Yaounde Prison was upgraded with the acquisition of echography machines, an electrocardiograph and a digital radiograph among others

964- There were 245 medico-sanitary personnel. The ratios were 1 Medical Doctor to 1,329 detainees; 1 Nurse to 485 detainees; 1 Nursing Aide to 248 detainees; and 1 Assistant Laboratory Technician to 926 detainees. These ratios reflect the need to strengthen health staff numbers.

965- All the Central Prisons had at least one Medical Doctor. For example, the Yaounde Central Prison had 3 Medical Doctors and 14 Nurses. Some Main Prisons such as the Mbalmayo Main Prison had Medical Doctors. The relation between the Medical Doctor or other health professionals and detainees was subject to the same codes of ethics and conduct as those applicable to patients in society.

966- Finally, cases of severe illnesses were referred to hospitals. The number of patients referred increased. There were 240 external hospitalisations as opposed to 180 in 2020 and 2,193 external consultations compared to 1 617 in 2020.

²⁹⁸ About 1,603,053.43 Euros.

²⁹⁹ About 1,549,618.32 Euros.

³⁰⁰ About 39.50 Euros.

³⁰¹ About 229,984.73 Euros.

C: Specific Situations

967- These concerned recurrent and non-recurrent communicable diseases as well as deaths.

1) Recurrent Communicable Diseases

968- The most recurrent communicable diseases were skin infections with 12,069 patients representing a prevalence rate of 56.31%; tuberculosis with 883 patients representing a prevalence rate of 4.12% and HIV/AIDS with 728 patients representing a prevalence rate of 3.58%.

969- As part of the fight against HIV/AIDS, with the support of the National AIDS Control Committee, Penitentiary Administration continued to provide follow-up for infected detainees by setting up HIV/AIDS care units in prisons. Similarly, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (the Global Fund), through GIZ, launched its activities (awareness-raising, screening campaigns and active search for pathologies and care of detainees and personnel) in collaboration with regional delegations of Penitentiary Administration. In this vein, seminars were organised bringing together Regional Delegates, Regional Chiefs of Service for penitentiary health and other penitentiary personnel.

970- In total, 5,730 detainees were educated on HIV/AIDS, and 10,157 screenings for HIV/AIDS were conducted at the time of imprisonment. Some 364 cases were positive, hence a prevalence rate in prison of 3.58%. The Yaounde Prison Medical Centre was following up 321 cases in prisons in the Centre Region where 160 educative talks were held on this pandemic.

2) Recurrent Non-communicable Diseases

971- The most frequent non communicable diseases in ascending order and by morbidity rate included malaria (12,069 cases, that is, 56.31%), respiratory diseases (10,356 cases, that is, 48.32%), skin infections (9 517 cases, that is, 44.4%), diarrhoea (3,168 cases, that is, 4.78%), tooth decay (2 762 cases, that is, 12.89%), injuries and wounds (2 483 cases, that is, 11.59%), bone injuries (645 cases, that is, 3.01%), high blood pressure (459 cases, that is, 2.14%), hernia (407 cases, that is, 1.9%) and diabetes (107 cases, that is, 0.5%).

3) Deaths

972- Some 118 detainees died (compared to 98 in 2020 and 170 in 2019), representing a mortality rate of 0.38%. Most of these detainees died of HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria. Cases of death due to meningitis (Mantoun Secondary Prison), liver cirrhosis (Abong-Mbang Main Prison), anaemia and severe dehydration (Meiganga and Tignere Main Prisons), Covid-19 (Bafang Main Prison) and strangulated hernia (Mbanga Main Prison) were also recorded.

§3: Measures taken for Hygiene, Sanitation and Supply of Energy

973- Most prisons had potable water supply provided either by CAM-WATER or from boreholes. Water points and toilets were developed. Several prisons had a waste water evacuation system.

974- Regarding electricity, most prisons were connected to hydroelectric sources of energy. To handle power cuts, all central prisons and some secondary prisons had generators.

§4: Sociocultural Activities and Social Welfare

975- Time was allocated to detainees to practice physical, recreational, cultural and religious activities. Under the supervision of prison personnel, the most recurrent types of activities included sports (football, handball, basketball, table tennis, footing, ...), dance, drama and board games (ludo, checkers, scrabble and "songho", etc.).

976- Under the leadership of other detainees and sometimes members of the clergy, the most practised religions were Christianity and Islam. Some prisons had places arranged for religious services. Regarding social welfare, several prisons had a social welfare service managed by social workers.

§5: Actions in Preparation for Social Reintegration

977- The detention period was used positively to facilitate reintegration of detainees into the society upon release, so that they can live in accordance with the law and meet their needs. To achieve this, children were educated, professional training programmes were organised and productive activities carried out.

A: Education of Detained Children

978- Although there is no formal educational system in prison, measures, in terms of providing space, Teachers or study material were adopted in some prisons to enable children attend classes. Moreover, some of them sat for official examinations organised by the Ministry of Basic Education, the Ministry of Secondary Education, the *Office du Baccalauréat* and the GCE Board.

979- As results, 12 detainees were successful at the *Baccalauréat*, 12 at the GCE A/L, 24 at the *Probatoire*, 18 at the GCE O/L, 26 at the *BEPC*, 71 at the *CEP* and 19 at the First School Leaving Certificate (FSLC); making 182 successful candidates in total (compared to 23 in 2020, 9 in 2019 and 10 in 2018). For example: in the Centre Region 204 pupils educated, all of them boys, and the success rate stood at 40% at official exams (one successful candidate at the *CEP*, one at *Probatoire* and 3 at *Baccalauréat*; The Maroua Central Prison which educated 28 pupils had a 100% success rate (that is, 2 students who sat for and passed the *CEP*).; With 26 pupils, the Bamenda Central Prison which had 26 pupils recorded a 100% success rate (5 pupils who passed the FLSC).

980- Under the supervision of Prison Superintendents, pupils were taught by volunteers, that is, other detainees or prison personnel. In addition to volunteers, the Bamenda Central Prison had Teachers posted thereto by the Ministry of Basic Education.

981- There was a particular situation at the Nkongsamba Main Prison where children in detention were educated in schools within the locality. The children in question were escorted to school in the morning and brought back to prison after classes.

B: Professional Training and Production Activities

982- Detainees received professional training and were given training certificates, mainly in electricity, auto mechanics, computer science, shoe repairing and agriculture. Thus, at the Nkongsamba Main Prison, 16 detainees were trained in modern agricultural techniques. Moreover, 26 others were undergoing training.

983- Similarly, the agro-pastoral complex of the Buea Upper-Farm Prison was operational. It comprised 25 hectares of maize farm, a beans farm, a green beans farm, a green vegetable farm and a cabbage farm. Furthermore, 5 piglets were in fattening process, 300 fowls were being bred and 4 sows had been acquired.

984- Despite input needs, detainees informally practised handicraft, animal rearing, agriculture, jewellery making, sewing, computer science and shoe repairing among other activities.

SECTION 4: PRISON CONTROLS AND VISITS

985- Prisons were controlled and visited by institutional and non-institutional stakeholders.

§1: Prison Controls

986- In addition to the afore-mentioned administrative controls by IGA-PEN, controls were conducted by judicial authorities. Generally, every quarter, Legal Officers of the State Counsel's Chambers of Courts of First Instance and High Courts and sometimes of the Procureur General's Chambers carried out more frequent controls. Thus, the State Counsel's Chambers of the Bafoussam Court of First Instance and the Mifi High Court conducted 7 controls at the Bafoussam Central Prison.

987- These included both physical controls whereby roll call was made for detainees and documentary controls where prisoner files were checked. After these controls, reports were produced on the findings. Cases of Human Rights violations were reported and measures were taken subsequently.

988- Also, controls of documents were conducted on the basis of reports communicated to the Legal Department.

§2: Prison Visits

989- Visits were conducted by Civil Society Organisations (CSO), the Cameroon Human Rights Commission (CHRC) and the Department of Human Rights and International Cooperation (DDHCI) of MINJUSTICE.

A: Visits by CSOs

990- Several CSOs carried out visits to prisons. Most of these were religious, charity, cultural and sports associations. During these visits, gifts were offered to detainees, cultural and sports activities were organised and trainings were initiated.

991- For example, on 28 December 2021, the *Association Camerounaise pour la Vulgarisation des Droits de l'Homme (ACAVDH)* visited the Ambam Main Prison. Besides gifts in kind given to detainees, ACAVDH paid the fines of 17 detainees to State coffers. On 12 August 2021, during a visit to the Mfou Main Prison, the PUENE Foundation trained 100 detainees on leadership, dyeing and moral re-armament. It also paid the fines of 15 detainees into State coffers.

B: Visits by the CHRC

992- The CHRC conducted visits to 21 prisons in the East, Far North, Centre, North, South, West, Littoral, South West and South Regions. Between July and December 2021, the Commission visited the Yaounde, Douala, Bafoussam, Maroua, Garoua, Ebolowa, Bertoua and Buea Central Prisons; Akonolinga, Mfou, Yaounde, Nanga-Eboko, Edea, Foumbot, Kumba, Mokolo, Guider and Kribi Main Prisons; and the Bengbis Secondary Prison.

C: Visits by the DDHCI

993- In a bid to collect data required for the drafting of this Human Rights Report, personnel from the DDHCI visited the Far North, North, Adamawa, East, Centre, Littoral, West, South and South West Regions. While there, they conducted visits to central prisons and several main prisons. During such visits, cases of Human Rights violations recorded were reported to the competent authorities for appropriate action to be taken.

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994- In a nut shell, besides administrative and judicial visits and controls, diverse initiatives enhanced the development of prison resources and strengthening of the quality of detainees' care. The insufficient budget allocated to the Penitentiary Administration remained the main challenge. Some other challenges included the appropriate supervision of minors in prison, dilapidation of some prisons, need for computerisation of prison registries as well as the absence of social welfare services and social workers in many prisons.

CHAPTER 4

PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF SOCIALY VULNERABLE PERSONS

995- In spite of the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the promotion and protection of the rights of socially vulnerable persons, the year 2021 witnessed the strengthening of the legal framework on the protection of persons living with disabilities and older persons and the enhancement of the civil, socio-economic and cultural rights of children, indigenous peoples and older persons to ensure their continuous enjoyment of these rights.

SECTION I: PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

996- The promotion and protection of children's rights included enhancement of their civil rights and the adoption of protection measures.

§1: Promotion of Children's Rights

997- Guaranteeing access to citizenship and participation of children in decision making were some of the measures taken in 2021 as regards civil rights.

A: Right to Citizenship

998- MINJEC in collaboration with BUNEC and MINJUSTICE established 3,300 birth certificates for pupils of examination classes or school going age in the 11 sub divisions of the Mayo-Danay Division, Far North Region. In the same vein, in January 2021, 143 birth certificates were handed over to candidates of the CEP exams for the 2021 session from 14 Government Primary Schools in Ngaoundere by the NGO, *Help for All*.

999- Furthermore, the first phase of the Support Programme for the Modernisation of the Civil Status Registration System (PAMEC), financed by German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) ended in June 2021 with 11,000 Civil Status Registrars trained. MINAT launched the second phase on 30 September 2021. The objective of the Programme is to guarantee the implementation of an inclusive and reliable system of civil status registration and demographic statistics.

1000- In addition, the courts³⁰² in the North Region issued 6,481 declaratory judgments to enable the establishment of birth certificates for children.

³⁰² HC Benoue, CFI Garoua, courts in Guider, Tchollire and Poli.

B: Participation

1001- During the 22nd session of the Children's Parliament held on 26 June 2021, focus was on violence against children, in line with the theme of the 31st Edition of the Day of the African Child, "Protect every child from violence, exploitation, neglect and abuse: a priority of Cameroon" The 2021 session unlike in past years was held in a hybrid format because of the covid19 pandemic. Thus, 30 Junior Parliamentarians from the Centre Region were physically present at the session while 150 from the 9 other regions participated by video conference.

1002- Recommendations to improve protection of children against violence that ensued from the session included increasing awareness on the respect of children's rights, reporting all forms of violence against children to competent authorities and creating frameworks for the care of children who are victims of various forms of abuse.

§2: Protection Measures

1003- Government took measures to protect children from violence and exploitation as well as in the justice system, provide alternative care for them where necessary, curb the phenomenon of street children and identify children associated with armed groups.

A: Protection of Children against Violence and in Situations of Exploitation

1004- In order to enhance the capacity of Focal Points on Child Protection in different ministries and the private sector in preventing and combating violence against children, their abuse and exploitation, a workshop was organised by MINAS from 13 to 15 July 2021 in Mbalmayo. Participants at the workshop recommended that education stakeholders should fully implement section 35 of Law No. 98/4 of 14 April 1998 on orientation of education in Cameroon, prohibiting corporal punishment.

1005- As an effort to reduce child labour, MINMIDT in its Decision No.00465/D/MINMIDT/SG/DAJ of 30 August 2021, prohibited access of minors into mining sites nationwide, thereby prohibiting any form of work within the said sites for children. The Decision further stated that any form of work within the said sites involving children below the compulsory school age as provided for by the regulations in force is prohibited.

1006- In the same vein the National Mining Corporation (SONAMINES) embarked on an awareness-raising campaign against child labour in mining sites on 21 September 2021 in the locality of Kambele, East Region. To encourage children to stay away from mining sites and rather go to school, the company offered didactic material to schools, prizes to meritorious pupils and participated in the schooling of 153 pupils in the locality.

B: Protection of Children in the Administration of Justice

1007- To strengthen the capacity of stakeholders involved in handling cases concerning children in contact with the law, workshops were organised as in previous years.

1008- In this vein, MINJUSTICE in collaboration with UNICEF organised 4 workshops in the 4 divisions of the East Region, the aim of which was to improve the protection of children in contact with law. They were attended by Legal and Judicial Officers, Defense and Security Forces, Penitentiary Administration Staff, Social Workers and members of Civil Society Organizations. The workshops were held respectively in Bertoua from 21 to 24 September 2021, Abong-Mbang from 23 to 24 September 2021, Batouri from 4 to 5 November 2021 and Yokadouma from 7 to 8 November 2021.

1009- Perpetrators of violent crimes against children were also prosecuted and punished such as, unintentional killing, indecency to a child under 16, grievous harm, assault occasioning death, kidnapping, and trafficking in and smuggling of persons.

1010- Trends from courts show that about 560 minors were victims of the above-mentioned violent crimes. Among whom were 223 boys and 337 girls and the offenders were prosecuted.

1011- Concerning trafficking and smuggling for example, the High Court Haut-Nyong in the East Region, in judgment No.114/CRIM of 6 October 2021 sentenced, a lady and her boyfriend to 5 years in prison each for trafficking 4 young indigenous (pygmies) girls from Bafia to Bouraka (Mbam and Inoubou Division) in the Centre Region.

1012- An instance of a kidnapping case, is Judgment No.3120/COR of 30 November 2021 wherein the Court of First Instance Garoua, convicted the accused for kidnapping and raping a 17 year old girl. The accused

was sentenced to 5 years in prison. Moreover, the High Court Benoue, in Judgment No.84/CRIM of 21 April 2021, sentenced 2 accused persons to 60 months in prison each for kidnapping and indecency to a child under 16.

C: Alternative care

1013- The Courts continued to take into consideration the best interest of the child as per article 3(1) of UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and article 4 of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child in granting application on adoption and guardianship.

1014- Statistics from courts in the country indicated that 204 applications for adoption were granted to nationals and 213 to foreigners. Also, 321 applications for guardianship were granted to nationals and 23 to foreigners.

1015- For example, the Court of First Instance Bertoua in Judgment No.190/TPD of 9 July 2021, in granting the application for the adoption of a 10 year old boy who was maltreated by the aunt stated that adoption will guarantee him better care as well as an ideal foundation for his development in accordance with the CRC. Also, in Judgment No.541/CIV of 24 May 2021 of the High Court Wouri, the Court considered that the best interest of the adoptee aged 17 who was never recognised at birth by his father was guaranteed by the adopter who would be able to provide better social, family and education prospects for the child.

1016- Furthermore, the High Court Wouri in Judgment No.708/CIV of 5 July 2021 while granting legal guardianship to a couple stated that the application was for the well-being of the child and the choice of a guardian made by the parents was aimed at the best interest of their child.

1017- At the end of the third quarter of 2021 statistics from MINAS indicated that there were 447 (220 male and 227 female) wards of the nation) in the country, most of whom were from the East, Centre, North West and South West Regions. During the same period there were 1,374 (731 male and 643 female) wards of the state. The East Region had the highest number with 1,195 and the Centre Region followed with 119.

1018- As at 31 August 2021, some 291 juvenile offenders were put on probation nationwide among whom were 259 boys and 32 girls³⁰³. The majority of these juvenile offenders³⁰³ were from the South West, Far North and Littoral Regions.

1019- Also, during the same period, administrative and judicial placements of children into reformatory institutions were undertaken. There were some 65 administrative placements with 59 boys and 6 girls among whom 34 boys from the East Region. As regards judicial placement, there were 153 children (134 boys and 19 girls) placed in reformation centres with the Littoral Region having 43 boys and 1 girl.

D: Combatting the Phenomenon of Street Children

1020- The fight against the phenomenon of street children continued to be a preoccupation for the Government. Of 201 street children who were retrieved from the streets, 162 referred to listening and transit centres and 39 placed at the *Institution Camerounais de l'Enfance de Bétamba*.

1021- In addition, as at the end of the 3rd quarter of 2021, 1,312 (918 boys and 394 girls) street children were identified. Among these children 436 (337 boys and 99 girls) were returned to their families and 182 placed in public and private institutions. Some 113 (107 boys and 6 girls) were placed in public and 69 (41 boys and 28 girls) in private institutions.

E: Identification of Children Associated with Armed Groups

1022- In 2021, children continued to be victims associated with these groups. As at the end of the month of August 2021, 1,272 children were identified to be associated with armed groups. Among these children, were 1,190 boys and 82 girls. The South West Region was in the first position with 965 (956 boys and 9 girl) children, North West Region in the second position with 238 (186 boys and 52 girls) children and the Littoral Region with 25 (16 boys and 9 girls) children in the 3rd position.

1023- The National Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Committee (NDDRC) as at 31 December 2021 had at its Centres 535 child ex-combatants (22 in Buea, 39 in Bamenda and 474 in Mora).

³⁰³ Bulletin d'information statistiques et sociales publié par le MINAS le 25 octobre 2021

SECTION 2: PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS LIVING WITH DISABILITIES

1024- The legal framework for the promotion and protection of persons living with disabilities was strengthened in 2021. Activities were also carried out to improve on their socio-economic and cultural rights.

§1: Legal Framework

1025- In order to effectively implement the national policy of social protection, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Africa were ratified respectively on the 28 December 2021, through Decree No.2021/751 of 28 December 2021 and Decree No.2021/753 of 28 December 2021.

§2: Rehabilitation of Persons living with Disabilities

1026- The Cardinal Paul LEGER National Centre for the Rehabilitation of persons living with disabilities and MINPMEESA signed a Partnership Agreement on 16 February 2021 in the presence of MINAS. As per the Agreement, MINPMEESA will henceforth put interns of the Centre in contact with technical and financial partners who could mobilise funds for the realisation of their projects.

1027- Furthermore, 1,185 (647 male and 538 female) persons living with disabilities, who were promoters of companies benefitted from advice, monitoring and evaluation from the Government as at the end of the 3rd quarter of 2021. Equally, about 1,855 persons living with disabilities received support in kind and cash to carry out income generating activities during the same period.

§3: Right to Inclusive Education

1028- In 2021, Government embarked on a sensitisation campaign on inclusive education. Thus, from 19 to 22 April 2021, MINAS, MINESEC and MINEDUB in collaboration with the Cameroon Baptist Convention Health Services (CBCHS) organised the "We ring the bell" annual campaign under the theme "Leave no child with a disability behind in education". The 3 day virtual campaign was aimed at raising awareness and encouraging public action to promote the education of children with disabilities.

1029- Besides, MINESEC issued Circular No.19/21/ LC/MINESEC/ IGE/ IP-OVS/SVS of 16 November 2021 to restate and supplement certain regulations relating to the respect of the disability and vulnerable approach in Public General, Technical, Vocational and Secondary Schools Teacher Training Schools in Cameroon. The Government also facilitated access of students living with disabilities or born of parents living with disabilities into State Universities and public secondary schools.

1030- Furthermore, on 25 February 2021, CBCHS handed over to Baptist High School Buea an easy accessible hall, equipped with laptops for visually impaired students. Prior to the handing over ceremony, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between CBCHS and the Cameroon General Certificate of Education Board. The MoU is aimed at assisting candidates with disabilities at the GCE Examination and other end-of-course examinations.

§4: Right to Education and Culture

1031- Education and Cultural rights of persons with disabilities especially the visually impaired were enhanced through the ratification by Decree No. 2021/250 of 27 April of the Marrakech Treaty to facilitate access to Published Works for Persons who are Blind, Visually Impaired or Otherwise Print Disabled. The Treaty³⁰⁴ makes easier the production and international transfer of specially-adopted books for blind persons or visually impaired.

§5: Enhancing the Health of Persons living with Disabilities

1032- In order to continue improving the health situation of persons living with disabilities, Government through MINAS partnered with CBCHS to launch the Project dubbed "*Rehabilitation Compass for Inclusion*" on 24 June 2021, at the CBCHS Resource Centre in Yaounde. The aim of the Project is to improve access to quality rehabilitation services for children, youths and adults with disabilities through the training of physiotherapists, occupational therapists and Community Based Rehabilitation workers in Cameroon. The CBCHS shall be partnering with State Universities like the Universities of Yaounde I, Buea and Bamenda to train these specialists for the next 4 years.

³⁰⁴ The Treaty includes 2 key elements: the possibility for people with print disabilities, or the institutions that serve them, to make accessible-format copies of books, and the possibility to share these copies, including across borders.

1033- Furthermore, in order to combat Covid-19 among persons living with disabilities, the capacity of stakeholders in the chain of protection of persons living with disabilities was strengthened especially social workers. Also, Covid-19 kits (51,496 masks and 7,516 hand sanitizers) 6,000 buckets and soap were handed over to organizations of persons living with disabilities for the prevention of the pandemic.

§6: Political Inclusion of Persons living with Disabilities

1034- Due to the low representation³⁰⁵ of persons living with disabilities in Councils, the National Assembly and the Senate, *Plateforme nationale des organisations de promotion de l'inclusion des personnes handicapées du Cameroun* on 12 August 2021 in a press briefing advocated for the inclusion within political parties of persons living with disabilities.

1035- In the same vein, on 6 April 2021, a new political party advocating for the rights of persons living with disabilities was created. The said political party, *l'Alliance démocratique des handicapés et sympathisants du Cameroun* has as objectives to improve on the low representation of persons living with disabilities in the management of public affairs and to advocate for the implementation of laws protecting their rights.

SECTION 3: PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF THE RIGHTS OF OLDER PERSONS

1036- The legal framework for the promotion and protection of the rights of older persons was enhanced. Their health was strengthened. The capacity of relevant stakeholders was developed and awareness raising activities carried out.

§1: Legal Framework

1037- The Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Older Persons in Africa was ratified through Decree No.2021/752 of 28 December 2021. With the ratification of the above Protocol, the social protection system of older persons is expected to improve.

³⁰⁵ 12 councilors with disabilities out of 360 councils, no parliamentarian and 1 senator

§2: Health

1038- The celebration of the 31st Edition of the International Day of Older Persons on 1 October 2021, under the theme: “*Digital Equity for all Ages*” was an occasion for Government to carry out mass testing for Covid-19 on older persons and voluntary vaccination. At the Bethanie-Viacam Centre, Nkolmesseng in Yaounde, Covid-19 tests were carried out on the 18 older persons of the Centre on 29 March 2021. Ophthalmology, physiotherapy and dental consultations among others were also carried out for the older persons.

1039- Apart from consultations, round table conferences were organised on violence inflicted on older persons and gifts were also handed to this vulnerable group by MINAS.

§3: Capacity Development and Awareness Raising

1040- As at the end of the 3rd quarter of 2021, 1,488 (811 male and 677 female) community workers were trained on psychosocial support for the older persons. During the same period, the awareness of 16,286 (9,401 male and 6,885 female) new older persons was raised on active aging during the same period. In addition, MINAS carried out 1,137 campaigns on healthy and active aging for the benefit of older persons. Besides, 2,973 new families were supported to care for their older persons during this period.

SECTION 4: PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

1041- A National Plan for the Development of Indigenous Peoples was adopted and activities were carried out to promote and protect their rights including civil and cultural rights.

§1: National Plan for the Development of Indigenous Peoples

1042- The 9th Session of the Intersectoral Committee for Monitoring Programmes and Projects Involving Vulnerable Indigenous Peoples (CISPAV) was held on 3 August 2021 in Yaounde. The Session was used for the presentation of the National Plan for the Development of Indigenous Peoples 2021-2025, which has as a vision that by 2025, indigenous peoples should have access to all social services, enjoy their fundamental rights

and participate actively in the development of Cameroon. The said Plan has 10 axis among which promoting health and wellbeing of indigenous peoples, promoting education and access to employment and vocational training of indigenous youths, promoting cultural heritage and indigenous knowledge and facilitating the development of economic activities among indigenous peoples.

1043- The 27th Edition of the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples on 9 August 2021 was celebrated in Cameroon under the theme *Mainstreaming indigenous peoples in regional development planning*. The Government used the occasion to popularize the National Plan for the Development of Indigenous Peoples and called on Regional Councils to take specificities of indigenous peoples in the process of regional development and urged indigenous peoples themselves to redouble their efforts with regard to their emergence by 2025.

§2: Civil Rights

1044- The Mbororo Social and Cultural Development Association (MBOSCUDA) embarked on a Project funded by the US Embassy entitled *Improving access to Civil Registration of the Mbororos of the Adamawa Region of Cameroon*. Its aim was to provide 600 birth certificates to Mbororo children in schools. The 40 field agents in charge of collecting data also raised the awareness of the Mbororo community on the importance of birth registration and establishment of birth certificates. At the end of the Project 1, 207 birth certificates were established and 15,298 children not having birth certificates were identified in the Region.

1045- In the same vein, the Association OKANI on 26 May 2021 published results of the community questionnaire on the impact of lack of certain documents like the national identity card, birth certificate, married certificate on the Baka and Bagyeli indigenous communities in the South and East Regions of Cameroon. The results indicated that the low rate of establishment of these documents among these group led to the disproportionate exclusion from the enjoyment of legal rights like education, voting and freedom of movement.

§3: Inter-Community Dialogue and Cultural Rights

1046- Increasing intercultural understanding and mutual respect for both Mbororo-Fulani and non-Mbororo crop farmers in the North West Region was a priority for MBOSCUA in 2021. This was done through inter-cultural dialogue using 20 youth associations, 20 Women's Groups as well as 47 Dialogue Platforms.

1047- Furthermore, Community awareness meetings were held on identity-based conflicts through community sensitization by Peace Ambassadors in some target communities in Bamenda III Sub Division. Some 84 persons (53 Mbororos and 31 non-Mbororos) were sensitised on identity conflicts, how to identify potential identity conflicts and mechanisms to manage them. Participants were also introduced to the preventive intervention and the early warning and response processes.

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1048- In 2021, Government made progress in the promotion and protection of the rights of socially vulnerable persons including the strengthening of the legal framework of persons living with disabilities and older persons through the ratification of International and Regional Human Rights Instruments, the enhancement of the capacity of stakeholders involved in handling cases concerning children in the justice system and the adoption of a National Plan for the Development of Indigenous Peoples.

1049- However, the protection of children against violence needs to be improved upon.

CHAPTER

5

**PROMOTION AND
PROTECTION OF
WOMEN'S RIGHTS**

1050- “Women in leadership: achieving an equal future in a Covid-19 world”, was the theme of the International Women’s Day 2021. This theme reiterated the need for States to accelerate the achievement of SDGs, especially Goal 5 which is to: *“achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls”*.

1051- To reduce the incessant inequalities between men and women, the Government of Cameroon continued its development momentum by taking measures to update public policies which promote women’s rights and by involving women in the management of public affairs. Furthermore, the State continued to empower women within the family and to promote their socio-economic rights. The fight against violence against women continued and women gained more prominence in peace-seeking initiatives in a context of conflicts that plagued the country and the sub-region.

SECTION 1: UPDATING NATIONAL POLICIES ON THE PROMOTION OF WOMEN’S RIGHTS

1052- Steps were taken to update certain policy documents taking into account contextual elements and developments. In addition, the State’s new policy options on women’s rights were reaffirmed in certain instruments.

§1: Measures to update the National Gender Policy and other Policy Documents.

1053- The updating of the National Gender Policy and other policy documents was in progress.

A: The National Gender Policy (NGP) 2021-2030

1054- As part of the update of the National Gender Policy (NGP), a zero draft of the NGP was developed in 2021. The draft was based on recent developments and legal, economic and political considerations at international, regional and national levels. These include the National Development Strategy 2030, the United Nations Agenda 2030, the African Union Agenda 2063 and the African Union Strategy for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women 2018-2028.

1055- In order to enrich the zero draft of the NGP, the Ministry of Women’s Empowerment and the Family (MINPROFF) with the technical and financial support of UN Women, organised from 8 to 11 December 2021 at the Framotel Hotel in Kribi, a workshop at which representatives of various

Administrations and the National Youth Council of Cameroon participated. One of the main recommendations of the workshop was to intensify the participatory and inclusive approach in the finalisation of the document.

B: Other Policy Documents

1056- A new National Strategy to combat Gender-Based Violence (GBV) 2022-2026 was being developed in 2021. It should take into account the new development challenges with the objective of contributing to the reduction of violence against women and girls in Cameroon.

1057- In addition, a new National Action Plan for the Elimination of Fetal Genital Mutilation in Cameroon (2022-2026) was being developed.

1058- The evaluation of the first 2017-2020 National Plan of Action for the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 and related resolutions highlighted the weakness of its communication and monitoring-evaluation mechanisms. Thus, the 2nd generation National Plan of Action for Resolution 1325 and related UN Security Council Resolutions on Women, Peace and Security, which was being developed, aims to promote the equitable and inclusive participation of men and women in the prevention and management of conflicts in the country.

1059- In this regard, MINPROFF with the support of the United Nations Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa, organised a workshop in Yaounde on 17 and 18 November 2021 to define the key and priority areas, integrate new development challenges and share strategies in order to enrich the Government's draft 2nd generation National Action Plan for the implementation of Resolution 1325.

§2: Reaffirmation of the State's Policy Options

1060- In addition to gender-specific policies, and the consideration of gender in the 2022 Finance Law, the National Strategy for the Development of Statistics took into account gender.

A: Experimenting Gender-responsive Budgeting

1061- In Circular No. 1 of 30 August 2021 on the preparation of the State budget for the year 2022, the President of the Republic prescribed the experimentation of gender-responsive budgeting, which will allow the State to progressively include gender issues at all stages of the budgetary pro-

cess. As a result, Law No. 2021/26 of 16 December 2021 relating to the Finance Law of the Republic of Cameroon for the 2022 Financial Year allocated gender-responsive budgeting on a pilot basis to 9 ministries³⁰⁶.

B: Production of Gender-Sensitive Data

1062- In order to understand the magnitude of gender-based discrimination, the production of disaggregated data is necessary. This dimension is included in the National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS30), the Plan of Action (2021-2030) of which was validated on 16 November 2021 by the National Statistics Council. The document will enable the State progressively produce, complete, reliable and coherent statistics in a timely manner and in a format which will allow it to be used judiciously. It shall include data relating to violence against women, girls and children.

SECTION 2: PROMOTION OF GENDER EQUALITY IN THE MANAGEMENT OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

1063- During appointments to key positions, the women were taken into consideration. They were also in the spotlight in sports.

§1: Appointment of Women to Key Positions

1064- After the production of 4 editions of Gender Records in various administrations (a document which advocates for gender to be taken into consideration in decision-making bodies), the innovation for the 2021 edition is the comparison of the rate of women's representation from one edition to the other. This innovation aims at appraising progress made in mainstreaming gender in the various administrations over time. It will also highlight possible factors of stagnation and regression.

1065- In 2021, women were appointed to key positions.

1066- Although the text to lay down the organisation of the CHRC provides for the appointment of at least 30% of women, only 3 women were appointed out of 15 open positions.

1067- Of the 58 divisions, there were 57 male Senior Divisional Officers compared to 1 woman, representing 98.27% for men and 1.72% for women.

³⁰⁶ These are: the Ministries in charge of Agriculture, Livestock, Decentralisation, Basic Education, Secondary Education, Health, and Women's Empowerment and the Family

1068- Similarly, of the 351 sub-divisional offices, 328 were headed by men, representing 93.44% and 23 by women, representing 6.55%.

§2: Spotlight on Cameroonian Women in Sports

1069- Much more than a game or entertainment, sport is a formidable lever for the emancipation of women. Through the Ministry of Sports and Physical Education (MINSEP), the State continued to involve women in the organisation of sporting activities and to support them during competitions. It is worth mentioning that women excelled in competitions.

A: Involvement of Women in the organisation of Major Competitions

1070- Women participated in the organisation of major competitions hosted by the country. They were 46 out of 191 members of the Organising Committee of the 24th African Women's Handball Championship 2020, which took place from 8 to 18 June 2021 in Yaounde; 25 out of 150 members for the 6th edition of the Total Africa Nations Championship (CHAN) Cameroon 2020 which was played from 16 January to 7 February 2021; 39 out of 146 for the 25th edition of the Women's Afrobasket 2021 which was played from 18 to 26 September 2021 and 24 out of 150 for the 33rd edition of the African Cup of Nations Football tournament 2021.

B: State Support to Female Sports Stakeholders

1071- Sponsorship by public authorities made it possible for a Cameroonian, **Louissette Renée THOBI ETAME-NDEDI**, to be appointed Secretary General of the Conference of Ministers of Youth and Sports of the *Francophonie* (CONFESJES), during the 38th session of this body held in Ouagadougou in Burkina Faso, from 23 to 27 February 2021.

1072- On 19 May 2021, the Institute of Sports and Physical Education created by **Françoise MBANGO** (ISEP-FM) received a donation of 40 laptops from the President of the Republic.

C: Women's Performance in Sports Competitions

1073- The promotion of women's sports enabled Cameroonian women to enter the arena of high-level sports and to rank among the best sports-

women on the continent. As regards collective sports for example, the women's national volleyball team won the 2021 African Championship tournament for the third time in a row. In handball, the women's national team occupied the 27th place out of 32 nations present at the 25th edition of the World Championship. The table below summarises the performances of Cameroonian athletes.

Table 1: Gender disaggregated data of Cameroon Winners in 83 International Sports Competitions during the year 2021

	TYPE OF MEDAL					
	GOLD		SILVER		BRONZE	
	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men
First quarter	14	18	3	11	2	9
Second quarter	34	42	22	37	16	31
Third quarter	2	8	00	5	6	5
Fourth quarter	13	26	7	12	11	11
Total	63	94	32	65	35	56
	157		97		91	
	345					

Source: MINSEP.

SECTION 3: PROTECTION OF WOMEN IN THE FAMILY

1074- The protection of women within the family was visible through the promotion of their marital status, the protection of their inheritance rights and the preservation of their rights in divorce matters.

§1: Promotion of the Marital Status of Women

1075- The State continued to safeguard the interests of women through the collective celebration of marriages. Throughout the year, 1,721 of such marriages were officiated across the country. These marriages contributed to the reduction of family imbalance caused by cohabitation, of which women are the main victims.

§2: Protection of Women's Inheritance Rights

1076- In more than 1,878 cases, the right of usufruct was granted to widows. Moreover, in more than 2,433 cases, the status of successor was granted to women/girls³⁰⁷. These figures provide ample evidence of the increasing recognition of women's inheritance rights. Some decisions also illustrate this fact. The Edea High Court, in Judgment No. 62/CIV/TGI/21 of 15 September 2021, designated four female children named **N.S.M.J.**; **N.M.V.F.**; **N.M.B.A.**; **M.M.M.**, as co-heirs of their deceased father **M.M.**. Also, the Bafia Court of First Instance, in Judgement No. 125/TPD of 19 March 2021, granted the right of usufruct to three widows named **T.A.R.**, **A.B.** and **K.N.A.M.** in the estate of their deceased husband **M.A.G.**

§3: Preservation of Women's Rights in Matters of Divorce

1077- The State continued to safeguard women's property rights in divorce matters. Of the 930 judgements recorded, almost half awarded alimony to women. Some 486 rulings were delivered in favour of the liquidation of matrimonial regimes taking into account women's rights. Illustratively, in line with this, the Koung-Khi High Court, in Judgement No. 3/CIV/GI of 11 May 2021, pronounced the divorce between Mr and Mrs **K.** The Judge gave custody of the 5 children to their mother, ordered the husband to pay a monthly alimony of CFAF125,000³⁰⁸ and to pay the sum of CFAF1,500,000³⁰⁹ to the mother as damages.

SECTION 4: PROTECTION OF WOMEN'S SOCIO-ECONOMIC RIGHTS

1078- The protection of women's socio-economic rights was made palpable through their access to land ownership and finance and their economic empowerment.

§1: Promotion of Women's Economic Empowerment

1079- Actions undertaken by the State in favour of women's empowerment were geared towards promoting women's access to land and finance as well as their inclusion in the implementation of agricultural projects and in other sectors of the economy.

³⁰⁷ Statistics of the North West Region are not included.

³⁰⁸ About 190.84 Euros.

³⁰⁹ About 2,290.77 Euros.

A: Women's Access to Land and Finance

1080- The Government continued to promote women's access to land and to finance.

1) Promotion of Gender in Access to Land

1081- As indicated in the table, the State, through MINDCAF, continued to guarantee women access to land.

Table 2: Increasing Number of Land Titles generated by Direct Registration Applications between 2019 and 2021

Year	2019	2020	2021
Men	2,143	3,330	4,960
Women	719	810	2,073
Local Authorities	1,516	1,125	1296
TOTAL	378	5,265	8,329

Source: MINDCAF

1082- In addition, issues relating to rural women's rights to land and natural resources were discussed during the land seminar held from 25 to 29 January 2021 in Yaounde under the theme: "*Local land management in Cameroon: challenges and lessons*". Participants were reminded that all citizens have the right to land regardless of gender.

1083- Women's right of access to land was also upheld through the administration of justice. Land litigation was on the rise, many land judgments were delivered in favour of women. Thus, about a hundred judgements were delivered in favour of women's land rights in various matters in most regions of the country. For instance, the Yaounde Administrative Court, in judgement No. 33/2021/TA-YDE of 16 February 2021, annulled Land Title No. 6613/MEFOU and AFAMBA in favour of Mrs **M.T.E.**

1084- Similarly, by judgement No. 65/TA/FOND/2021 of 14 December 2021, the Ngaoundere Administrative Court rendered a judgement in favour of Mrs **D.F.M.** by ordering the quashing of Order No. 535/MINDCAF/SG/D2/1300 of MINCAF.

2) Women's Access to Finance

1085- The Centres for Business Creation Formality (CFCE) which aim to facilitate the implementation of actions towards increasing entrepreneurship in Cameroon, recorded the creation of 3430 SMEs by women.

1086- Furthermore, in the process of linking 153 SMEs with large companies that are originators, undertaken by the Cameroon Subcontracting and Partnership Stock exchange (BSTP-CMR), 38 companies belonging to women promoters were profiled.

1087- In the same vein, 150 micro-projects initiated by women benefited from State support to the tune of CFAF 180,000,000³¹⁰ as part of the programme to finance the activities of business incubators for which CFAF 350,000,000³¹¹ was earmarked.

1088- An increase in the Government's action was also noted in the promotion of social economy within Decentralised Regional and Local Authorities. In line with this, 81 financial support packages, amounting to the tune of CFAF 650,000,000³¹², were granted to women's social economy organisations and enterprises belonging to promoters from all social strata.

1089- Women were particularly involved in the handicrafts sector as 7,850 of them displayed talent and ingenuity by showcasing their products during the Cameroon International Handicrafts Fair (SIARC 2021) held in Yaounde from 15 to 24 December 2021.

1090- In all the Councils, 7,370 craftsmen and craftswomen including 3,850 men and 3,520 women were registered in 2021, raising the number of craftsmen and craftswomen registered since 2014 to 77,249.

B: Economic Growth of Women in the Agricultural Sector

1091- Women continued to be trained in agriculture while benefiting from State support.

1) Taking Women into account in Agricultural Training

1092- The policy governing access of women to professional schools was continuously implemented in agricultural training schools. The following table illustrates this reality.

³¹⁰ About 274,809.16 Euros.

³¹¹ About 534,351.14 Euros.

³¹² About 99,236.64 Euros

Table 3: Number of Learners in Schools under MINADER's Training Scheme according to Gender

Name of school	Number of learners	TOTAL NUMBER OF WOMEN	TOTAL NUMBER MEN
CRA BAMBILI	180	111	69
CRA EBOLOWA	298	103	195
CRA MAROUA	261	77	184
EFSC EBOLOWA	393	174	219
EFSDC GUIDER	315	202	113
EFSDC KUMBA	241	116	125
EFSDC SANTA	106	60	46
EFSEAR KUMBA	64	51	13
ETA ABONG MBANG	268	173	95
ETA BAFANG	282	172	110
ETA BAMBILI	71	45	26
ETA DIBOMBARI	301	178	123
ETA EBOLOWA	281	170	111
ETA GAROUA	305	223	82
ETA MAROUA	358	255	103
ETA NKAMBE	72	45	27
ETA SANGMELIMA	313	197	116
NCC BAMENDA	58	21	37
IAO-ISAGO	111	70	41
ISSAEER	51	36	15
ISTAO	40	31	9
ISYD GAROUA	41	27	14
AGENLA ACADEMY	51	31	20
CIEPO	52	43	9
TOTAL	4513	2611	1902

Source: MINADER

1093- MINADER, in the implementation of the majority of projects and programmes in the agricultural sector in Cameroon, took into account the economic needs of women with a view to empowering them. To this end, on 21 May 2021, UN Women Cameroon signed a memorandum of understanding with the *Agricultural Value Chain Development Support Pro-*

ject (PADFA) with a view to supporting it in the preparation of its gender strategy. Throughout the year, this project helped to sustainably increase income and build the resilience of family farms engaged in rice and onion production in the North, Far North, West and North West Regions. It is worthy of note that 50% of participants in this project were women.

1094- Collaboration between MINPROFF and UN Women as part of the ongoing Programme dubbed *Second Chance Education (SCE)*, led to the strengthening of the economic capacity of women and girls. As a result, nearly 5,000 women in the Far North, Adamawa, East, Centre and Littoral Regions received vocational training in livestock, small-scale trade, agriculture, ICTs and sewing in Women Empowerment Centres (CPFF) and in community grounds accessible to them. In addition, they received starter kits that enabled them to be able to start their own businesses and to be independent.

1095- Furthermore, the economic capacity of youths and women in the West, East and Adamawa Regions were strengthened with the support of CIPCRE, which enabled 233 beneficiaries to be trained in entrepreneurship.

2) Provision of Agricultural Support to Women

1096- The State provided multi-faceted support to women through various agricultural projects implemented across the country. These include the *Agriculture Investment and Market Development Project (PIDMA)*. The project enabled the persons concerned to benefit not only from financial support through partner banks but also from support for the production, processing and marketing of products derived from cassava, maize and sorghum. The main targets were women (50%) and youth (30%).

1097- In addition, from March to August 2021, a cooperative of about 300 women based in Maga in the Far North Region received support in the form of rice seed and on-site capacity-building. This support was provided through MINADER as part of the Avangane pilot rice farm project.

1098- Also, as part of the Support Programme for the Security and Integrated Management of Agro-pastoral Resources in Northern Cameroon (ASGIRAP) implemented by MINADER in 20 innovation areas in the northern regions of Cameroon, 688 women received support in the form of material, equipment and seeds for agro-ecological activities.

1099- A total of 832 women also received Government support amounting to CFAF 249,600,000³¹³ representing 208 starter kits as part of the implementation of the *Youth Agropastoral Entrepreneurship Promotion Programme* (PEA-Jeunes). This programme, which is implemented in the Centre, South, Littoral and North West Regions, also made it possible to support 213 women by granting them production loans worth a total of CFAF 74,550,000³¹⁴.

1100- Of the 37 projects that were being implemented by MINADER in 2021, more than half mainly targeted women and youths.

1101- Furthermore, as part of the commemoration of the 2021 edition of the World Rural Women's Day, MINPROFF organised capacity-building sessions for this social category in all regions. Some 3,872 women and girls living in rural areas were reached as part of this initiative. More than 60 women groups and 200 women received agro-pastoral equipment to reduce the arduousness of their work. On this occasion, 18,000 women and girls were sensitised regarding access to land and finance.

C: Promotion of Women in the ICT Sector

1102- The ICT sector was also considered in the implementation of measures that encouraged the empowerment of women by the State.

1103- As part of the implementation of the *Programme to train 8,000 women in ICTs in Africa*, 1,500 Cameroonian teenage girls and young women aged between 12 and 25 years received express training in digital coding from 28 June to 9 July 2021 in Yaounde. This coding camp, initiated by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, will enable young women fully play their role in the development of digital economy in Africa, and to be increasingly recruited by local and international companies in this field. The modules examined were knowledge of computer programmes, video games, software and digital applications.

1104- From 4 to 8 March 2021, the 3rd edition of the Digital Women's Festival initiated by the *African Women in Tech Startups Association* (WITS), was held in the cities of Yaounde, Douala, Buea and Ngaoundere. This

³¹³ About 381, 068. 70 Euros.

³¹⁴ About 74, 550, 000.79 Euros.

digital caravan helped to raise awareness among 500 young girls in universities on digital opportunities and cybersecurity challenges, and to reduce the gender digital divide in Cameroon.

D: Capacity-building in various Sectors of the Economy: Training of Women

1105- Two new Centres for the Promotion of Women and the Family were built in Dzeng and Nkambe in 2021. The training centre in Ndom in the Sanaga-Maritime Division was handed over to the State in September 2021. This training centre for sewing, cooking and small-scale medicine was set up by the State to train women and girls living in this relatively isolated area of the country.

1106- It is worthy of note that by the end of the year, there existed 116 other such centres across the country.

1107- Also, the 2nd Session of the *Training on Standardization and Cosmetic Products* took place in Yaounde from 22 to 26 November 2021 as part of the *Women, Youth and Standardization-Cameroon Project*. About fifty participants were schooled on the cosmetology of black skin, on various types of hair, on standardisation and the process for preparation of standards in Cameroon, the importance of participating in the work of technical committees CT 43 and the essential factors of quality and composition of cosmetic products according to the Cameroonian standard of cosmetic products NC 801.

1108- In addition, the evaluation and validation of the comprehensive education framework for CPFFs provided girls and women with general skills in entrepreneurship, project development and management. These were incubation grounds for several areas of specialisation, including: the clothing industry (TIH), aesthetics and hairdressing (EC), hotel management and catering (HR) and ICT.

1109- Moreover, MINPROFF trained more than 40,000 women and girls in entrepreneurship and management of income-generating activities (IGAs); 102 women groups and 1,346 women, including 753 widows, received financial support for the establishment of IGAs.

1110- Furthermore, the partnership with the *CUSO International* enabled the State to carry out a number of activities in favour of women and girls, in particular: the training of 24 girls in business start-up and financial and tax management, after which they were established in the textile and soap-making sector.

§2: Involvement of Women in Economic Activities to fight against Covid-19

1111- In 2021, women were involved in initiatives to acquire equipment, consumables as well as services related to the fight against Covid-19.

1112- Income-generating activities were geared towards production of material for the fight against Covid-19.

1113- MINPROFF trained more than 552 seamstresses on the production of face masks. Also, 849 women were trained in income-generating activities connected with the local production of liquid and tablet soap. To this end, 4,599 women and girls received support towards their resilience to Covid-19.

SECTION5: COMBATING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

1114- In addition to being a reflection of the inequality between men and women, violence against women is an attack on their dignity. In order to deal with it, the State focused its actions on prevention, repression and the care for victims.

§1: Prevention of Violence against Women

1115- Preventive measures concerned education and awareness-raising on the one hand, and capacity-building of stakeholders in the chain of protection of women's rights on the other hand.

A: Education and Awareness-raising

1116- MINPROFF organised a denunciation ceremony under the theme: *Stop sexual exploitation of children, adolescents and their images on social media*. The concept, forms, causes and consequences of sexual exploitation were presented. The context of the said violence in Cameroon, the role of parents and local communities were recalled.

1117- Furthermore, 1,547 persons, including 714 women and 477 girls, received training on GBV, women's rights, available services, leadership and self-esteem, with a special focus on women leaders and young people across the country.

1118- The Regional Delegation of Women's Empowerment and the Family of the Far North Region and the Community Education Animators Network (RESAEC) received support from the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) for the training of 100 teenagers and young girls on leadership and life skills in order to raise their awareness on risks related to GBV, rape and child marriage.

1119- On the occasion of the celebration of the International Day against FGM on 6 February 2021, MINPROFF recalled the strategy adopted by the country, which focused on public information and the training of religious and traditional leaders.

B: Capacity-building of Stakeholders

1120- Stakeholders involved in the women's rights protection chain received training on the fight against GBV. In effect, on 21 and 22 January 2021, the annual retreat of the Humanitarian Gender Thematic and Development Group (GTG) steered by UN Women was organised in Yaounde. The overall objective of this retreat was to strengthen the cohesion of the GTG team around the strategic sectors of intervention. Specifically, the goal was to familiarise the team with the strategic sectors of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) document, to prepare the GTG 2021 annual plan and to analyse the gender and humanitarian roadmap.

1121- By the end of 4 training workshops organised in Mbalmayo from 8 August to 6 September 2021, 135 Police Officers were trained on topics relating to the prevention and management of GBV.

1122- In addition, the International Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA)-Cameroon organised a capacity-building workshop in Limbe on 19 February 2021. This seminar gathered 40 participants, including traditional leaders, their wives and Presidents of Customary courts. They were schooled on the negative impact of discriminatory practices, the eradication of harmful traditional practices and benefits of respecting women's rights.

1123- During 2 workshops organised in Maroua from 10 to 15 October 2021 by MINPROFF in collaboration with UN Women, 147 Gendarme Officers were trained on how to take into account trauma suffered by victims during their interrogation, on skills needed to interrogate adult and minor GBV victims and on benchmarks for holistic care.

1124- With the support of UN Women, the Ministry of Justice trained 60 persons (Judicial and Legal Officers, Lawyers, Doctors and members of the civil society) on GBV³¹⁵. The presentations included the normative framework on GBV, the implementation of the National Strategy to Fight GBV, GBV in crisis situations, the protection of GBV victims and witnesses the prosecution of GBV offences and reparation for GBV victims. The goal of these trainings was to improve access to quality multisector services, including legal aid for women and girls who are victims of GBV in the target areas.

§2: Repression of Violence against Women and Girls

1125- GBV were physical, moral, psychological and economic, manifested in the form of assault and battery, kidnapping, abduction, rape (sometimes gang rape) of women and girls, sexual slavery and early and forced marriages. The publication of sexual abuse and sex tapes of which the victims were women, increased on social media. The perpetrators were prosecuted. (see §125)

1126- Of the 219 rape cases brought before the courts, 168 resulted in convictions. Examining Magistrate heard 514 cases of indecency to child under 16 which resulted in 334³¹⁶ convictions. In concrete terms, the Mbere High Court, in Judgement No. 10/CRIM of 9 June 2021, sentenced **H.B.M.** to five years in prison and to a fine of CFAF 200,000³¹⁷ for indecency in the presence of a minor of 13 years of age, followed by rape and false arrest.

1127- Similarly, in Judgement No. 288/CRIM of 6 July 2021 of the same Court, Mr **Y.J.F.** was sentenced to 30 years in prison for indecency to child under 16, followed by rape and incest on his daughter **G.L.G.**, who was 14 years old at that time.

³¹⁵ (Buea 10-12 November 2021; Bafoussam 24-26 November 2021; Maroua 8-10 December 2021).

³¹⁶ Statistics of the North West Region are not included.

³¹⁷ About 305. 34 Euros.

1128- Moreover, some cases of GBV that received a lot of media attention were prosecuted. For example, in the case of **Lislore NGOUENI** who died in Mbouda on 9 March 2021 as a result of assault by her partner while she was seven months pregnant, the accused was remanded in custody at the Main Prison of the said town.

§3: Care for Victims

1129- Throughout the year, in the 10 regions of the country, the Government set up integrated services for the management of violence, including GBV, survivors (IDPs, refugees, returnees and host populations) through holistic support (medical, legal, economic, psychosocial and material support).

1130- Key actions included: capacity-building for social workers in safe spaces ; strengthening the functionality of safe spaces ; updating the user guide for intervention in safe spaces; offering psychosocial, medical and legal services including dignity and economic support kits to some GBV survivors in the Far North, North West and South West Regions; Strengthening GBV sub-groups and sub-clusters (at the central level and in the Far North, North West and South West Regions); building the capacity of GBV trainers in the 10 regions by setting up a pool of trainers; providing telephones to be used as call centres at the central level and in the 10 regions.

1131- In order to better support GBV victims in the follow-up of their cases, MINPROFF, with the support of UN Women, set up five gender and child desks in police stations and gendarmerie brigades in the towns of Bertoua, Buea, Meiganga, Bamenda and Babadjou.

1132- MINPROFF also set up five local support structures in these towns that provide integrated GBV management services for survivors³¹⁸ through holistic support³¹⁹.

1133- Also, MINPROFF set up integrated services for the care of children who are victims of violence in the councils of Bertoua 2, Betare-Oya, Garoua-Boulai, Mandjou, Mbanga, Nkonsamba, Buea and Nguti.

³¹⁸ IDPs; refugees, returnees and host populations.

³¹⁹ Medical guidance, legal and judicial assistance, economic, psychosocial and material support.

1134- Furthermore, the *Association locale pour un développement participatif et autogère* (Local Action for Participatory and Self-Managed Development (ALDEPA)), the *Association de lutte contre les violences faites aux femmes* (Association to combat Violence against Women (ALVF)), *Plan International* and International Medical Corps (IMC) carried out care activities in safe spaces for 1,980 women and girls in the Minawao Refugee Camp from June to December 2021.

SECTION 6: INVOLVEMENT OF WOMEN IN PEACE-SEEKING INITIATIVES

1135- Actions of the State relating to this were complemented by the work of women's associations.

§1: State Action to promote Women's Participation in the Search for Peace

1136- In order to enable women to become more involved in peace-seeking initiatives, the Gender Strategy of the National Committee for Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration of Cameroon (2021-2025) was drawn up with the collaboration of MINPROFF and UN Women in January 2021.

1137- MINPROFF also organised 3 conferences (2 virtual international conferences on 19 March 2021 and 17 November 2021) and one in-person conference (Yaounde City Council on 7 April 2021) for women leaders in order to ensure their active and meaningful participation in the national dialogue process, to create space for solidarity in the 10 regions of Cameroon, and to set up a powerful movement for peace.

1138- Moreover, in April 2021, with the support of UN Women, the Government organised capacity building seminars in Bertoua and Ebolowa, for defense and security forces (DSF), municipal police and vigilante groups on Human Rights, International Humanitarian Law, Guidelines for protecting schools and universities from military use during armed conflict as well as Guidelines on gender-based violence and child protection.

1139- In addition, MINPROFF organised from 28 to 29 May 2021 in Limbe and from 8 to 9 June 2021 in Ebolowa, campaigns to promote peace, multiculturalism and living together and awareness-raising campaigns

against hate speech and radicalisation with a majority of those reached being women. A total of 200 peer educators were trained, including 96 women, in the culture of peace, the fight against intolerance, living together and the fight against Covid-19, in the cities of Mfou, Ngaoundere and Buea in June 2021.

1140- In addition, in September 2021, the State, with the support of its partners, trained Community Based Organisations (CBOs), and CSOs in the cities of Limbe, Douala and Ebolowa, on leadership, commitment and citizenship, public opinion building, MIL (Media and Information Literacy) pedagogical guide, social accountability and conflict prevention and risk reduction. 90% of participants were women and girls.

1141- In 2021, several Cameroonian women were also selected to serve in UN peacekeeping missions. At the level of the Ministry of Justice, 2 female Judicial and Legal Officers and 8 women from the Penitentiary Administration were selected.

§2: Impetus of Civil Society in Peace-seeking Initiatives

1142- Several peace-seeking initiatives were carried out by CSOs, including the initiative of the Cameroon Women's Peace Movement (CAWOPEM), financed by *Friedrich Ebert Stiftung*, with the technical support of various ministries, particularly MINPROFF, for the holding of the first National Convention of Women for Peace from 28 to 31 July 2021.

1143- This Convention brought together 95 civil society organisations and more than 1,500 women³²⁰. It aimed at encouraging the inclusive participation of all women in the resolution of conflicts and the preservation of peace in Cameroon.

1144- In the same vein, the Association Women for Peace Mediation Conflicts Prevention took part in a virtual training seminar organised by FemWise-Africa of the African Union, from 15 to 17 June 2021 on the theme: "*Violent Extremism and Terrorism: Awareness, Analysis and Response Strategies*". This training enabled participants to acquire knowledge and skills on how to anticipate threats, risks and vulnerabilities in order to prevent and address various manifestations of violent extremism in communities.

³²⁰ The conference was attended by women from all 10 regions, including peace activists, displaced women and girls, and victims of the conflict.

1145- Furthermore, regarding awards, a women's rights activist, **Marthe WANDOU**, founder of ALDEPA (an association that fights against illiteracy among young girls, early marriage and sexual abuse), received on 1 December 2021 in Stockholm, the *Right Livelihood Award*, better known as the alternative Nobel prize.

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1146- The Government's actions brought more impetus to the promotion of women's rights through the initiation of the amendment of numerous policy documents and the involvement of women in public management. Such impetus was observed in the area of sports, where a woman was elected to the office of vice-president of FECAFOOT and others won medals in national and continental sporting competitions. Moreover, women benefited from several economic support packages, especially in the agricultural sector, to enable their empowerment. The repression of GBV was effective just as the involvement of women in peace-seeking initiatives. However, women's empowerment remains a real challenge for the State, which has to deal with certain obnoxious traditional practices.

CHAPTER

6

**PROTECTION OF THE
RIGHTS OF FORCIBLY
DISPLACED PERSONS**

1147- Socio-political instability in neighbouring countries and intercommunity clashes in the Far North Region led to movements of persons in and out of the national territory in 2021. In addition, conflicts³²¹ between the Musgums and Arab Choas coupled with continued attacks from the *Boko Haram* group in the same Region and the security crisis in the North West and South West Regions led to other involuntary movements of persons in and out of the country. Despite constraints, including those related to the Covid-19 management, the Government took steps to continue its policy of welcoming and preserving the essential rights of these vulnerable persons.

SECTION 1: MANAGEMENT OF REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS

1148- The reopening of some borders following the reduction in the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, and Cameroon's hospitality fostered the arrival of new persons in Cameroon seeking asylum. The Government provided support to all these persons by facilitating their access to basic social services, as well as the repatriation process of those desiring to return to their country of origin. Some movements out of the national territory were equally registered

§1: Receiving and Settling Refugees and Asylum Seekers

1149- New comers seeking refuge at the border increased the number of people coming into Cameroon. These new comers were settled in various sites.

A: Increasing Number of Refugees and Asylum Seekers

1150- In 2021, there were 474,294 refugees in Cameroon against 436,397 in 2020, representing an increase of 37,897. Most of them were from the Central African Republic and were 342,877³²² against 316,128 in 2020, followed by Nigerians who were 120,928³²³ compared to

³²¹ See the chapter on the right to peace and security

³²² These included 217,860 girls and 22,585 boys aged 0 to 4 years; 43,642 girls and 43,749 boys aged 5 to 11 years; 27,073 girls and 26,427 boys of 12 to 17 years; 80,514 women and 64,843 men of 18 to 59 years; 5,850 women and 6,409 men of more than 60 years old.

³²³ Including 9,386 girls and 9,465 boys of 0 to 4 years; 17,558 girls and 17,514 boys aged 5 to 11 years; 9,091 girls and 8,879 boys aged 12 to 17 years; 26,031 women and 17,249 men of 18 to 59 years; 2,780 women and 2,775 men of more than 60 years old.

117,422 in 2020 and refugees of other nationalities amounted to 2,458 persons³²⁴ against 2,847 in 2020.

1151- The number of asylum seekers also increased from 6,819 in 2020 to 8,031³²⁵ in 2021.

B: Reception and Settlement

1152- Refugees received in Cameroon were settled in developed sites and in communities. However, there were some adjustments in the settlement of refugees from the Central African Republic compared to other refugees and asylum seekers.

1) Refugees from the Central African Republic

1153- Following the post electoral crisis in CAR, new Central African refugees entered the national territory. Several actions were taken to improve the reception and settlement of these refugees. Thus, concerning settlement sites, 506 old shelters were rehabilitated and 10 stand posts with 40 taps were constructed in the Lolo and Mbilé sites for better access to drinking water for refugees and host communities. In the specific case of the Gado Badzere and Lolo localities which received new refugees, 2 new viable sites of about 19 hectares in total were developed, with 462 new emergency shelters each, including 390 which were later on turned into transitional shelters for better housing conditions. Moreover, in each of these sites, 8 and 6 emergency community sheds were constructed, 2 boreholes for drinking water supply were built with solar pumping system installed, 128 new sanitary cubicles and latrines, 118 semi-durable bathing cubicles, and 17 solid waste landfill pits were developed and maintained. Some 500 hand washing devices were also installed and 462 WASH kits distributed to 517 new families in those sites, families which represent 1,637 new refugees.

1154- Generally, 11,511 refugees from Central African Republic were at the sites at Borgop, 29,164 at Gado Badzere, 12,489 at Lolo, 11,032 at Mbilé, 6,811 at Ngam, 1,374 at Ngarisingo and 7,202 at Timangolo,

³²⁴ Including 69 girls and 64 boys aged 0 to 4 years; 166 girls and 164 boys aged 5 to 11 years; 130 girls and 132 boys aged 12 to 17 years; 489 women and 557 men of 18 to 59 years; 16 women and 61 men of more than 60 years old.

³²⁵ Including 414 girls and 463 boys of 0 to 4 years; 599 girls and 561 boys of 5 to 11 years; 357 girls and 330 boys aged 12 to 17 years; 1,686 women and 3,553 men aged 18 to 59 years; 20 women and 48 men of more than 60 years old.

making a total of 79,583 persons. Those living in the community were in the East Region, precisely in the Boumba and Ngoko (5,700), Haut-Nyong (25), Kadey (51,070) and Lom-and-Djerem (88,961) Divisions. In the Adamawa Region, they were in the Djerem (1,933), Mbere (50,048), and Vina (4,578) Divisions; in the North Region, they were 43,14, totalling 245,456 people. In urban areas, the number of these refugees was estimated at 10,704 in the Centre Region and at 7,134 in the Littoral Region.

2) Refugees and Asylum Seekers of other Nationalities

1155- The majority of refugees from Nigeria lived in the Far North Region in the lone site of Minawao where they were 68,516 in number. As regards those living in the community, they were in the Logone-and-Chari (35,659), Mayo Sava (8,105), Mayo Tsanaga (4,248), Diamare (36), Benoue (2,467), Ndian (618), and Mayo Banyo (1,259) Divisions, making a total of 52,392. As regards urban areas, they were in Douala (12) and Yaounde (8).

1156- Some initiatives were equally taken to offer a pleasant living environment to refugees. At the Minawao site for example, 254 tool kits were distributed to 254 community leaders to help more than 4,000 households build shelters or transform existing ones into better weather-resistant transitional shelters, and also to carry out sanitation works. Likewise, with the support of the *Lutheran World Federation*, 105 latrines and 10 bathrooms were constructed, while 1,085.8 m³ of mud were drained off the site and its surroundings. In the same vein, the UNHCR and its partners *Shelter Box* and *IEDA Relief* distributed non-food kits to 4,500 refugees of the site.

1157- Refugees from countries other than the Central African Republic and Nigeria also lived in urban areas, namely Douala (453), Yaounde (1,848) and Langui (157). Asylum seekers, on their part, lived mainly in Douala (4,801) and Yaounde (3,230).

1158- In all, 73% of refugees from the Central African Republic, 27% of refugees from Nigeria and 1% of refugees from other countries were settled in Cameroon. Women and girls represented 52% and children 55%.

§2: Voluntary Repatriation

1159- Cameroon facilitated the voluntary return of 135 persons, including servicemen, gendarmes, policemen, and civil servants of the water and forestry sector. In this process, combat equipment was handed over to the Central African Government. Furthermore, 3,989 refugees, including 3,880 Nigerians were repatriated respectively to Banki (2,659) and Bama (1,221) in the Borno State and 109 Central African refugees to Bangui. These voluntary returnees who had the possibility to take their properties along, received from the Cameroon Government Covid-19 protective kits, were tested before their departure and had their cattle vaccinated.

§3: Empowerment-Oriented Care for Refugees

1160- Actions carried out by the State consisted of protecting refugees, facilitating their access to basic social services and empowering them.

A: Refugee Protection

1161- Refugee protection mainly revolved around documentation, training and legal aid.

1) Access to Documentation

1162- From 17 November to 7 December 2021, free birth registration campaigns for children³²⁶refugees and asylum seekers born in Cameroon were organised in Douala by the *Women Peace Initiative* association with the support of UNHCR, Plan Cameroon and the European Union. These campaigns which were accompanied by awareness raising on the importance of birth certificates targeted the establishment of about 150 declaratory judgments of birth in the Douala I, II, III, IV and V council areas. These campaigns organised within the framework of the *Project Contribution to strengthen local governance through the rehabilitation of the civil status registration system through information, awareness raising and support for citizens in fulfilling formalities and obligations relating thereto*. These campaigns which were in their first phase were extended to marriage and death certificates for refugees and asylum seekers.

³²⁶ These campaigns also concerned IDPs from the North West and South West Regions.

1163- In addition, while waiting for refugee cards to be effectively issued by the Government³²⁷ and in order to facilitate freedom of movement of refugees and asylum seekers, UNHCR delivered 10,711 documents for their free movement called “To Whom it May Concern”. It also facilitated the supply of 39 Convention Travel Documents (refugees’ passport) to those willing to travel abroad and the renewal of 8 travel documents.

2) Training

1164- Training was organised to protect refugees and prevent refoulement at the borders. Thus, with the technical and financial support of the GIZ project “Support to the ECCAS Border Programme (APF-CEEAC)” and the technical support of UNHCR, 3 trainings of 3 days each were organised at Gabon-Cameroon (Bitam), CAR-Cameroon (Garoua-Boulai) and Chad-Cameroon (Kousséri) borders between November and December 2021. The objective of the trainings was to raise the awareness of authorities at the borders and at entry points on the concept of mixed population movements and the rights of refugees and other vulnerable people like women, children, the elderly and persons with disabilities. Moreover, a one day meeting was held prior to the programme with civil society to discuss problems faced during the passage of refugees at the borders and to inform them of their obligations and rights, to enable them be less vulnerable to sexual assaults, corruption and other abuses from border authorities.

1165- In the North, Adamawa and East Regions, with the support of the UNHCR, the Government organised 10 capacity building workshops for 275 administrative and judicial authorities, as well as for Defence and Security Forces (DSF), including 7 on international protection and 3 on the Global Compact on Refugees. Likewise, a workshop co-facilitated by UNHCR and GIZ was organised from 22 to 23 June 2021 for 30 participants representing administrative and security authorities, and civil society in Garoua-Boulai, Kétté and Bombé, on mechanisms for access to asylum as well as on Human Rights and entry systems for protection, ethics and communication at borders.

³²⁷ Pursuant to Law No. 2016/375 of 4 August 2016 to lay down the characteristics and terms and conditions for establishing and issuing the National Identity Card, to amend and supplement some provisions of Decree of 4 September 2007 to lay down conditions for the enforcement of Law of 12 January 1997 to lay down the conditions of Entry, Stay and Exit for Aliens in Cameroon.

1166- At the Minawao site, a capacity building session was organised from 17 to 18 May 2021 for 135 administrative, judicial, traditional, military and council authorities on the Refugee Coordination Model, the civilian and humanitarian nature of asylum, gender-based violence, rights and obligations of refugees, investigations and responsibilities of FLO at the Minawao site, the management of public order in a context of crisis and community police. Besides, on 17 September 2021 in Maroua, 75 members of mixed committees, traditional and council authorities were trained on international protection. On 2 November 2021 in the same city, 40 members of FLO and border guards therein were trained on the Global Compact on Refugees.

1167- The Technical Secretariat of the Refugee Status Management Bodies, the Memong & Eteme Law Firm which assists refugees in Yaounde, and UNHCR organised and facilitated 4 capacity building Seminars for Cameroon administrations on the international protection of refugees, internal displaced and stateless persons from 14 to 15 September 2021, then from 13 to 14 October 2021 in Yaounde. Participants included Gendarmerie Officers (37), police (37), Judicial and Legal Officers as well as Court Registrars (20), Penitentiary Administration staff (10), council staff (22), Lawyers (10), personnel of MINAS (6), MINPROFF (5), MINJEC (3), MINEDUB (1), MINESEC (1) and MINESUP (1).

3) Legal Assistance

1168- Refugees and asylum seekers in conflict with the law received legal assistance during the year under review. In the Far North Region for example, 145 asylum seekers and 76 refugees were set free from police and gendarmerie cells thanks to legal assistance received through a law firm, a partner of UNHCR. The said firm equally followed up 74 cases before civil courts and military tribunals, at the end of which 29 refugees were released from prisons.

B: Facilitating Access to Basic Social Services

1169- Actions were carried out as regards the protection of refugees' rights to health and education.

1) Health Coverage

1170- The health coverage of refugees included preventive actions, health care administration and the improvement of health infrastructure and equipment.

a) Preventive Actions

1171- In order to preserve the health of refugees, on 25 May 2021 the Government signed an Agreement with UNHCR for their health care³²⁸ in public health facilities in regions hosting them, namely Far North, North, Adamawa, East, Centre and Littoral. This Agreement aimed at facilitating the integration of refugees³²⁹ in the national health system and strengthening the response to the Coronavirus pandemic. In the Mandjou Council in the East Region which hosted about 12,000 refugees for example, a Monitoring Committee made up of refugees was set up to ensure grass-roots awareness raising in indigenous languages and French, and to distribute prevention kits³³⁰.

1172- In addition, refugees were included in the Expanded Programme on Immunisation. As an illustration, the vaccination coverage of Central African refugees (children under 5) against measles was 92% against 77% in 2020. About 10,680 Central African refugees were vaccinated against Covid-19, (about 55% for AstraZeneca, 36% for Johnson & Johnson and 8% for Sinopharm).

b) Health Care Administration

1173- With regard to treatment, the persisting Covid-19 context led to the care of refugees in different sequences. For example, in areas hosting Central African refugees, only 23 health facilities in 2021, against 31 in 2020 received care that is about 52% of refugees, (8% less than in 2020). From a general point of view, as at 31 December 2021, efforts made by the Government and its partners to facilitate health care for Central African refugees led to 99,380 curative consultations and 2,078 medical referrals essentially for obstetrical emergencies.

³²⁸ As a reminder, a framework convention for a period of 2 years renewable was signed between UNHCR and Cameroon on 10 August 2016 for the health coverage of Central African and Nigerian Refugees, 30% being borne by Cameroon and 70% by UNHCR.

³²⁹ This agreement also concerned IDPs from the security crisis in the North West and South West Regions.

³³⁰ Those kits included buckets with taps, soap, bottles of hydro-alcoholic gel and disposable and reusable face-masks.

1174- In the Far North Region, with the support of International Medical Corps, a total of 101,919 curative consultations (44,397 men and 57,522 women) were carried out in 2021 against 126,592 in 2020, with a completion rate of 77.5% with regard to the target, with children under 5 representing 33 %. A total of 1,877 more serious cases³³¹ were referred to other hospitals, 1,870 cases were referred to the Mokolo Regional Hospital Annex and 6 to the Maroua Regional Hospital.

1175- With regard to malnutrition, the SMART-SENS survey carried out in 2021 in the Minawao refugees site revealed a stable nutrition situation with a general acute malnutrition rate of 3.9% against 5.9% in other parts of the Far North Region, while the severe acute malnutrition rate (SAM) reached an alert rate of 1.7% in the Minawao site against 0.2% in other parts of the Far North Region. Thus, 55,269 children (26,410 boys and 28,859 girls) aged 6 to 59 months were screened for malnutrition, including 25,570 during active community screenings and 29,699 through passive screenings³³². These screenings made it possible to detect 3,411 cases of moderate acute malnutrition (1,435 boys and 1,976 girls) and 1,788 cases of SAM (765 boys and 1,023 girls), leading to the admission in hospital of 581 children representing 95.6% of the 608 targeted cases.

1176- Refugees living in sites in the East and Far North Regions also received psychosocial support through MINAS social workers.

c) Improvement of Health Infrastructure and Equipment

1177- Within the framework of the fight against Covid-19, UNHCR supported the Cameroon Government through MINSANTE by donating medical equipment³³³ for refugees on 17 March 2021. In addition to that, UNHCR built 6 isolation units of a capacity of 40 beds each in 6 District hospitals in the East, Adamawa, North and Far North Regions. Medical

³³¹ The main reasons for referrals were: paediatric emergencies, surgical emergencies, gynaecological and obstetrical emergencies and severe acute malnutrition with medical complications.

³³² Passive screening refers to all people who come to a health centre on their own initiative and are found to have clinical symptoms or are screened. As concerns active screening, health personnel does not wait for people to come to the health centre, but go out to the population in villages and hamlets to look for these symptoms or to perform screening tests.

³³³ This consisted of 10 medical ventilators, 3 ambulances, 181 oxygen concentrators, surgical masks, 818 hand washing devices for sites and communities, and hundreds of soaps.

equipment and 5 Covid-19 treatment centres were also officially handed over to the regional delegations of public health of the 3 regions hosting refugees from the Central African Republic.

1178- Moreover, 8 quarantine and isolation centres with staff and medical equipment were set up in the sites for Central African refugees and in the Minawao site for Nigerian refugees. These quarantine units made it possible to receive and provide care for more than 600 refugees. In the Minawao site, 2 health units were equipped and a Covid-19 centre was built.

1) Education Offer

1179- Incentives as well as various food inputs encouraged the school attendance of refugee children.

a) Incentives for Education

1180- Several activities were carried out, including awareness raising, strengthening of human and infrastructural resources, and granting of multifaceted assistance.

i) Awareness Raising

1181- In the Adamawa, East and North Regions, 36 face to face and remote (in the form of radio broadcastings) were organised for about 8,000 persons. The sessions were on various themes, including the role of parents in providing educational support to children, continued respect of preventive measures against the covid-19 pandemic and children's education and identifying major hindrances to the education of all children. In addition, discussion platforms were set up via social media to raise the awareness of parents and encourage them to get more involved in the educational supervision of their children.

1182- In the above mentioned Regions, MINEDUB-Lutheran World Federation-UNHCR joint missions were organised to assess the progress of school activities and to carry out advocacy with various authorities for the education of refugee children; 5 meetings to follow up the activities of Parent Teacher Associations were held to ensure their involvement in the education of children and their support in the payment of parents' teachers.

In addition, 89 children with special needs³³⁴, followed up and documented received some equipment to facilitate their access to education.

1183- For children in the Minawao site, MINEDUB conducted 8 supervision visits at nursery schools and 14 in primary schools to improve learning conditions. With regard to secondary education, MINESEC carried out 4 pedagogical supervisions to improve the quality of teaching. Moreover, to promote the participation of youths, parents and the community in the management of schools, committees were set up. Through these committees, mothers of children and youths carried out awareness raising activities, on the themes *back to school campaign, students enrolment and retention in school, the importance of education, especially for girls and adults literacy*. These activities reached about 12,500 people

ii) Strengthening Human and Infrastructural Resources

1184- In areas hosting Central African refugees, 150 parents' teachers were recruited within the framework of MINEDUB-UNHCR collaboration. Regarding infrastructure, 22 blocks of 45 new classrooms, including offices for teachers were constructed. These classrooms, put at the disposal of MINEDUB, came as a result of Educate a Child project co-financed by UNHCR and the Education Above All Foundation. In addition, the World Bank's IDA 18 Replenishment (IDA 18) contributed to strengthening school infrastructure in the said area thanks to the construction of 21 blocks of 2 classrooms each, 15 double apartment onsite houses for teachers in remote localities and school latrines.

1185- As regards Nigerian children's education, 50 teachers were trained on themes focusing on the implementation and exploitation of the new curricula, the reduction of disaster risks and the management of conflicts as part of education in emergency. At Minawao, a building of 3 classrooms was also renovated.

iii) Assistance for Education

1186- With regard to the education of refugees from the Central African Republic, 150 teachers recruited within the framework of the MINEDUB-UNHCR collaboration received a monthly financial incentive of CFAF

³³⁴ These are children at risk, with reduced mobility or unaccompanied.

40,000³³⁵. Furthermore, 392 children received support during travel for school related activities, 214 students from public primary schools were registered for the *Certificat d'Etudes Primaires*, the *Concours d'entrée en 6^{ème} and 1^{ère} année de l'Enseignement technique*. Concerning the 2020/2021 school year, 2,204 children in primary education out of the 2,500 targeted received school assistance, that is 1,404 in Yaounde and 800 in Douala. As concerns secondary education, 417 students from 6^{ème} to 3^{ème} and 120 students from 2^{nde} to *Terminale* received financial support for their education.

1187- With respect to Nigerian children of the Minawao site, the Government offered minimum school packages to the 6 schools in the site at the beginning of the year through MINEDUB. In addition, for nursery school children, the Government provided 46 mats to schools, with 64 small chairs and 16 small tables for 2 nursery schools. Similarly, these children also received 1,800 planned school kits, 42 educational kits and 100 school uniforms³³⁶. As regards primary education, the Government offered kits to 8,421 pupil (3,902 girls and 4,519 boys), 700 school kits to CM1 and CM2 pupils only and 760 school uniforms. Furthermore, the library of the Minawo site was furnished with 629 French, Mathematics, Science, Technology textbooks, etc.

1188- As concerns secondary education, 12 students received financial support for examination fees (GCE) and 9 students, including 3 girls reading science subjects which are not offered at Minawao, attended a school in Maroua. In addition, school kits were distributed to 724 students (276 boys and 448 girls), and 70 desks for classrooms and 36 teaching kits to teachers were also provided. Financial aid was granted to 545 students of 3^{ème} and *Terminale* (206 boys and 339 girls) for examination fees.

b) Demand for Education

1189- Statistics on the registration of Central African refugees in primary education showed that 33,620 refugee children (14,072 girls and 19,548 boys) out of 65,715 of school age were enrolled in 376 public primary schools, representing a school enrolment rate of about 51%. In urban areas,

³³⁵ About 61.06 Euros.

³³⁶ For 50 girls and 50 boys.

79% of refugee children of primary school age attended school. At the level of secondary education, the enrolment rate was 82% for the classes of 6^{ème} to 3^{ème} and 86.48% for 2^{nde} to *Terminale*, with 84% being girls.

1190- For Nigerian children in the Minawao site, during the 2020-2021 school year, out of 21,641 children of nursery and primary school age (10,911 boys and 10,730 girls), 13,088 were registered (6,770 boys and 6,318 girls), representing a school enrolment rate of 68.47%. With respect to -nursery school, 3,757 children were enrolled, including 1,823 boys and 1,934 girls, representing a rate of 59.41%, while teachers' attendance rate was 99% on 95 % targeted. At the primary level, 11,062 children were registered (5,756 boys and 5,306 girls), representing an enrolment rate of 72.21%, with a teachers' attendance rate of 93% on 90% targeted.

1191- Concerning secondary education, 806 students were registered (474 boys and 332 girls), that is a rate of 6.59%. During the voluntary repatriation process, 534 refugee children received their certificate of school attendance. Regarding adult literacy, awareness raising activities made it possible to register 562 persons, including 260 men and 302 women. At the end of the training, 32 of them, including 25 women received attestations.

1) Refugee Nutrition

1192- Refugees in Cameroon received nutritional assistance. By way of illustration, in the Far North Region, the World Food Programme carried out as early as the end of January 2021, 11 monthly distribution of food to refugees in the Minawao site, that is an individual food basket representing a caloric value of 1,471Kcal (about 405g/pers./d). At the end of the reporting year, a total number of 740,834 refugees benefited from this support, with an average of 67,348 persons/month.

C: Empowerment of Refugees

1193- In 2021, priority was given to various assistance, training and agricultural activities to facilitate the empowerment of refugees.

1) Various Assistance

1194- The Government, represented by MINEFOP, signed a partnership agreement with the International Labour Office and UNHCR on 24 February 2021, to facilitate access to decent employment for refugees living in Cameroon. In addition, refugees received various forms of support from the Government. For example, the Government made donations of basic necessities³³⁷, including financial resources to newly arrived Central African refugees, before their settlement in the Gado Badzere site. At Kentzou, 400 Central African refugees families equally received a humanitarian aid, as well as 600 Central African refugee families in Garoua Boulai and 150 Chinese refugees from CAR.

1195- On 16 December 2021, the International Labour Organisation, with the support of the Korea International Cooperation Agency, launched the project "Empowering women for resilient economies and peaceful communities in the refugee-affected regions of East and Adamawa in Cameroon". This project, planned for 4 years in 16 councils and funded to the tune of nearly CFAF 46,000,000,000³³⁸, aims at helping approximately 5,000 persons, including refugees³³⁹, especially women, to create sustainable companies and agricultural cooperatives while facilitating their access to basic social services.

1196- In addition, in the 3 regions hosting refugees from the Central African Republic, 55 Common Initiatives Groups, as well as village savings and loan associations with on average of 550 women, received support and follow up from UNHCR. Furthermore, thanks to the *Project Revolving Funds*³⁴⁰ initiated by this partner, funds allocated for the empowerment of refugees through income generating activities (IGAs) were generated. A sum of CFAF 52,000,000³⁴¹ was allocated for the realisation of projects like the construction of 4 buildings for poultry farms, the distribution of IGAs

³³⁷ These donations included sleeping material, food and health kits. About 100 host Families also benefited from these.

³⁴³ About 70,229,007.63 Euros

³⁴⁴ This project also targets women IDPs and host populations.

³⁴⁵ Micro- credit schemes

³⁴⁶ About 79,389.31 Euros

and agricultural kits to refugees, as well as the payment of training fees to obtain a driving licence.

2) Training

1197- Funds allocated for the Project *revolving Funds* allowed for the practical training of 50 Central African refugees, followed by the establishment of a poultry farm of 1000 broilers and 1000 laying hens, the training of 25 women in bakery with the creation of an artisan bakery for 25 women as well as the training of 20 refugees and the setting up of a production unit of edible mushrooms for them. Through this Project, 25 refugees were trained in driving in Meiganga. After obtaining their driving licences, some were absorbed into the public transport sector to support themselves and their families. At Batouri, 75 young refugees were equally trained in driving, 71 of whom obtained their driving licence, that is a success rate of 94.7%.

1198- In addition, 25 urban refugees from the CAR, Liberia, Mali and Côte d'Ivoire received certificates at the end of a training on agricultural entrepreneurship and e-commerce from 23 to 26 February 2021 in Douala. This training was organised by the *Africa Hope Refugees* in collaboration with the Government of Cameroon, the *Agence Française de Développement* and UNHCR. Beneficiaries of the training were asked to build on notions learned for their effective empowerment through agricultural and commercial activities.

3) Agricultural Activities

1199- Farming was one of the options to foster the economic independence of refugees. As an illustration, landowners in the Adamawa, East and North Regions conceded 1,060 ha of arable land for the benefit of 2,265³⁴² persons, including 1,586 refugees. Cultivation of the land led to an overall production of 3,014 tons of food. Regarding cereals and legumes, refugees of the locality of Mandjou recorded the largest production with 405 tons of corn and 258 tonnes of groundnut. Of this production, 30% was used to feed the families of beneficiaries and about 60% was sold to help these families meet their other basic needs³⁴³ and to expand or diversify their IGAs.

³⁴² Including 679 hosts.

³⁴³ Needs relating to health, education, accommodation, clothing, etc.

SECTION 2: MANAGEMENT OF INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS

1200- Training sessions for stakeholders on the protection of internally displaced persons (IDP) were organised. There was for example the session held from 7 to 9 September 2021 with the support of the International Committee of the Red Cross, for student administrators of the National School of Administration and Magistracy Yaounde on challenges related to the protection of IDPs in Cameroon and the prospect for implementing the Kampala Convention. Alongside this training, other initiatives to safeguard the interests of IDPs of the Far North, South West and North West Regions were initiated.

§1: Care for Internally Displaced Persons in the Far North Region

1201- The Government ensured that the welfare of IDPs was preserved, as well as return to their homes.

A: Preserving IDPs' Welfare

1202- Measures concerning IDPs' welfare concerned accommodation, education, health and nutrition.

1) Accommodation for IDPs

1203- Estimated to be 357,631 in 2021, these persons were either settled in sites developed for that purpose or welcomed in households.

1204- An estimated 32,901 were forced to abandon their homes due to intercommunal clashes between Musgums and Arab Choas in the Logone-and-Chari Division. They found refuge in spontaneous sites granted by Traditional Rulers, emergency shelters built with straw, loincloths and sticks, or in host families in the Diamaré³⁴⁴ and Mayo-Sava³⁴⁵ Divisions.

2) Access to Education, Health and Food by IDPs

1205- IDPs from the above mentioned intercommunal clashes lived on donations and the fruits of the sometime premature harvest from their farms.

³⁴⁹ Including in Maroua 1, 2 and 3, Pétte and Bogo.

³⁵⁰ Mora and Tagawa.

The Government made various food donations³⁴⁶ and distributed sleeping³⁴⁷ as well as hygiene³⁴⁸ kits to displaced persons in Kousseri and neighbouring localities.

1206- The distance between host sites and health facilities, coupled with the lack of financial means made access to school and health care very difficult. The Non-Governmental Organisation *Action Against Hunger* and its partners provided shelters for IDPs, intimate hygiene kits for women and food assistance via money transfers. This Organisation also deployed a mobile clinic to offer the relevant population psychological support, primary health care and free treatment for malnutrition.

C: Maintaining the Voluntary Return Option

1207- The continuation of security actions to restore peace in areas affected by *Boko Haram* attacks facilitated the return of about 135,257 IDPs.

§2: Protecting the Rights of Internally Displaced Persons of the South West and North West Regions.

1208- Forcibly displaced persons due to conflicts in the North West and South West Regions were scattered all over the country, and mostly in the South West (120,834), North West (226,708), Littoral (81,298), Centre (60,068), West (75,090), Adamawa (5,301), South (4,200) and East (2,008) Regions.

1209- These persons were assisted through various donations. Thus, through the implementation of the Emergency Humanitarian Assistance Plan, basic necessities including sleeping material and foodstuffs were distributed to IDPs. As an illustration, 500 families in Ebolowa, 100 in Tombel, 300 in Nanga-Eboko, 700 in Mamfe and 400 in Eyumodjock received these donations. In addition, the Circle of Friends of Cameroon distributed donations³⁴⁹ to IDPs living in Bonaberi in the Littoral Region and Ntui in the Centre Region, and supported the education of IDP children of the loca-

³⁵¹ Namely rice, cooking oil, meat, salt, corn, smoked fish, etc.

³⁵² Mattresses, blankets, mats...

³⁵³ Buckets, soaps...

³⁴⁹ Including mattresses, bedding, kitchen utensils, foodstuffs, drugs, cleaning products and basic necessities.

lity, estimated to be more than 400 for nursery and primary education as well as for those in secondary schools. These donations which included school supplies and teaching materials among other things, were given following Government instructions recommending the systematic and free enrolment of IDP students throughout the territory, including those without birth certificates, report cards or school attendance certificates.

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1210- In its strong commitment to protect rights and preserve the dignity of forcibly displaced persons under its responsibility, the Government strengthened collaboration with its partners and continued its multiple initiatives on the protection, access to basic social services, security and empowerment of these persons. However, it is clear that a better management of instability in crisis regions, the Covid-19, as well as the availability of sufficient financial resources would make it possible to better safeguard the rights of these people.

CONCLUSION OF PART THREE

1211- On account of cross-cutting Human Rights issues and the protection of the rights of specific groups, Decrees were issued to ratify international instruments, national instruments were adopted, the institutions of the State were strengthened, strategic documents were evaluated and operational initiatives intensified. All these actions had a positive impact on the quality of governance, detention conditions and women's rights, as well as on the situation of vulnerable persons and forcibly displaced persons.

1212- In this connection, the Marrakesh Convention of 27 June 2013 to facilitate access to published works for persons who are blind, visually impaired and otherwise print-disabled was ratified. Agreements were signed relating to the right to work and the right to health of refugees. Workshops on juvenile justice were organised. Furthermore, the National Gender Policy was in the process of evaluation and health and food coverage for prisoners was improved. In addition, NACC, NAFI, CONSUPE and the Audit Bench of the Supreme Court remained committed to the fight against corruption and the protection of public funds.

1213- Although results achieved by the Government on these issues were satisfactory, there were still challenges mainly related to budgetary constraints, the culture of Human Rights and the respect of public interest.

GENERAL CONCLUSION

1214- In conclusion, despite the Covid-19 pandemic, security crises, economic downturn and climate change, the State of Cameroon, as in previous years, was committed to address the challenges of Human Rights protection in 2021.

1215- Cooperation between Cameroon and international and regional mechanisms for the promotion and protection of Human Rights continued to be developed, both as far as contentious and non-contentious matters are concerned, notably through the processing of urgent Communications and Urgent Appeals, participation in the sessions of some Human Rights Bodies and the submission of periodic reports to Treaty Bodies. Cameroon's membership in some Human Rights mechanisms was also strengthened during the year under review.

1216- At the strategic level, Cameroon adopted a new National Plan for the Development of Indigenous Peoples for 2021-2025, the 2021-2030 Plan of Action of the National Strategy for the Development of Statistics as well as the Plan for the Reconstruction of the Far North Region. Other strategy papers were adopted, particularly in the agricultural sector. Moreover, the National Gender Policy and its Plan of Action, the National Strategy to Combat Gender-Based Violence, the Action Plan for the Elimination of Female Genital Mutilation and the National Plan of Action on the implementation of UN Resolution 1325 were under review.

1217- Normative activity was particularly intense. Indeed, Decrees were issued for the ratification of important international and regional instruments likely to have a significant impact on the situation of Human Rights, such as the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; the Treaty for the establishment of the African Medicines Agency; the Marrakech Treaty to facilitate access to published works for persons who are blind, visually impaired and otherwise print-disabled; the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; and the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Older Persons.

1218- At the national level, laws to govern key areas and sectors were passed, including Law No. 2021/14 of 9 July 2021 to govern access to genetic resources, their derivatives, traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits

arising from their utilization; Law No. 2021/15 of 9 July 2021 to organize and promote volunteering in Cameroon; Law No. 2021/23 of 16 December 2021 governing inter-branch organisations in Cameroon; and Law No. 2021/24 of 16 December 2021 governing the organization and promotion of the book sector in Cameroon.

1219- Several legal instruments were also passed in the area of decentralisation, including the Decree to lay down the standard organisation of regional administration and the Decree to lay down the terms and conditions governing the exercise of some powers devolved upon regions by the State.

1220- At the institutional level, the most salient points include the operationalisation of the Cameroon Human Rights Commission, the effective establishment of regional councils and the appointment and entry into office of public independent conciliators.

1221- With regard to infrastructure, the organisation of the 2021 TotalEnergies African Cup of Nations provided an opportunity for the Government to complete the construction of major sports infrastructure and health facilities, and to improve urban road networks of several towns in the country.

1222- However, these major achievements were marred by a plethora of negative situations, including the escalation of violence due to the resurgence of inter-community conflicts and the persistence of terrorist attacks in certain Regions; the increase of road accidents; and the arson attack that consumed the premises of the Foumbot Court of First Instance, thus causing difficulties in relocating services and reconstituting case files; the upsurge of misinformation and obscene content on social media; as well as the continuous presence of refugees and IDPs.

1223- It is evident that in the coming months and years, the State of Cameroon will need to bolster efforts to overcome these challenges in order to improve on the Human Rights situation in the country. Challenges will also have to be overcome in order to strengthen the culture of Human Rights, the sense of respect for general interest, social cohesion and living together.

APPENDIX

The following institutions contributed in preparing this Report: the UNHCR, the Supreme Court, Courts of Appeal and Lower Courts, Ministries, independent administrative services, public and semi-public establishments, and civil society organizations:

Ministries / Administrative 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 (MINFOP);
- 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
- Ministry of State Property, Survey and Land Tenure (MINCAF);
- Ministry of Territorial Administration (MINAT);

- Ministry of Tourism and Leisure (MINTOUL);
- Ministry of Trade (MINCOMMERCE);
- Ministry of Water Resources and Energy (MINEE);
- 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

- National Agency Financial Investigation (ANIF);
- Standards and Quality Agency (ANOR);
- National Agency for Information and Communication Technologies (ANTIC)
- Investment Promotion Agency (IPA);
- Cameroon Water Utilities (CAMWATER);
- National AIDS Control Committee (CNLS);
- National Social Insurance Fund (NSIF);
- National Anti-Corruption Commission (NACC);
- Cameroon Human Rights Commission (CHRC);
- National Communication Council (NCC);
- Elections Cameroon (ELECAM);
- National Fund for Youth Integration (FONIJ);
- Urban and Rural Land Development Authority (MAETUR);
- Consumer Product Supply Regulatory Authority (MIRAP);

- National Community-Driven Development Programme (PNDP);
- Institute of Agricultural Research for Development (IRAD);
- National Civil Status Registration Office (BUNEC);
- National Commission for the Promotion of Bilingualism and Multiculturalism (NCPBM);
- National Disarmament, Demobilization and Rehabilitation Committee (NDDRC);
- Cameroon Housing Corporation (SIC);
- Cameroon Housing Loan Fund (CFC);

International Organizations and Civil Society

- International Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA)
- United Nations High Commissioner for - Refugees (UNHCR Cameroon);
- Mbororo Social and Cultural Development Association (MBOS-CUDA);
- Young Men's Christian Association.
- United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women);

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