

MOUVEMENT POUR
LA RENAISSANCE
DU CAMEROUN



CAMEROON
RENAISSANCE
MOVEMENT

AUTORISATION MINATD N°000221 DU 25 JUILLET 2008/ LETTRE MINATD N°0002249/LMINATD/DAP/SDE/STP DU 02 AOÛT 2012

PRESS RELEASE ON THE STRANGULATION OF CAMEROONIANS WITH VARIOUS TAXES, DUTIES AND STAMPS INCLUDING THOSE PROVIDED FOR BY ARTICLE 548 TITLED “RIGHTS AND STAMPS ON PASSPORTS AND OTHER DOCUMENTS” OF THE PRESIDENTIAL ORDINANCE N° 2024/001 OF JUNE 20, 2024

After the continued increase in fuel prices, Presidential Order No. 2024/001 of JUNE 20, 2024, is further proof that the CPDM government is disconnected from the realities of Cameroonians' live. Otherwise how can it, in a context of generalized impoverishment of populations, proceed with an astronomical increase in the cost of passport stamps and other documents, and in particular the National Identity Card (NIC). Such a decision, which is part of the regime's I-don't-care attitude, is indefensible and therefore unacceptable.

Indeed, after having deprived Cameroonians of the national identity card (NIC) for several years, in particular because of staggering poor public governance, the Government has just increased the price of the NIC stamp from 2,800 to 10,000 F CFA which is an exponential increase of 257%. When we add to this stamp price the cost of the nationality certificate (3,500 F CFA) and that of the copy of the birth certificate (2,000 F CFA), the final cost of establishing the NIC now amounts to nearly 15,500 F CFA, or 1/3 of the minimum wage which is 41,875 F CFA. Obviously, these costs do not take into account private tax levied on users in our various administrations. In addition to being irresponsible, this increase takes no account of the modest purchasing power of the overwhelming majority of Cameroonians, undermined by ambient poverty. It should be remembered that the National Institute of Statistics (NIS) established, in March 2024, that ten million Cameroonians live on less than 1000 CFA francs per day! In particular, by making the CNI inaccessible due to its prohibitive cost, the Government deprives the mass of ordinary Cameroonians, without jobs and without income, of an essential element for the exercise of their rights as citizens and their ordinary economic and social activities; in fact this government is putting them out of the game, out of the loop, on the margins of society. Who can trust a person who does not have a national identity card? The presidential order goes

one step further by artificially increasing the cost of Cameroon entry visas, passes and consular cards, which are now among the most expensive in the world.

This presidential order of 20 June is undeniable proof of the State's financial indigence and impecuniosity. We have long said that the State's coffers have been emptied by unrepentant kleptomaniacs and that our country is living day by day. The ordinance therefore betrays the financial pressure that the country has been facing for some time now, particularly vis-à-vis its international creditors, as a result of the reckless, incompetent and irresponsible management of the CPDM regime.

As could be expected, this regime, instead of cleaning up public finances, in particular by reducing its lifestyle, chose to pick the pockets of Cameroonians to try to fill the financial chasms dug in the public treasury by its pundits, through the scandals that have proliferated in recent years. Once again, this regime has chosen to target the most vulnerable populations. In a context of high costs of living and a general surge in the prices of basic necessities, the staggering increase in stamps on documents essential for the affirmation of citizenship is a matter of political irresponsibility. The CRM denounces the psychological and social violence represented by the increase in the cost of services covered by the presidential order of June 20, 2024, which is neither more nor less than a provocation of Cameroonians. The CRM requests its cancellation.

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The CRM takes this opportunity to point out that the production of the NIC and passports falls under the sovereignty of the State, and that it is part of national defence and security. As a result, the production of NICs cannot be entrusted to foreign companies, especially since there is national expertise in this area. In this vein, the CRM calls on the government to clarify the reasons for awarding NIC production to foreign companies, as well as the conditions under which these contracts were awarded. It also calls on parliament to carry out investigations into the NIC production crisis and the relevance of an increase in costs to be borne by Cameroonians.

Done in Yaoundé on June 21, 2024

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National President of the CRM