

Decree No. 2022/354 of 09 AOUT 2022  
to lay down conditions for carrying out municipal policing.

**THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC,**

- Mindful** of the Constitution;
- Mindful** of Law No. 2019/024 of 24 December 2019 to institute the General Code of Regional and Local Authorities;
- Mindful** of Decree No. 2011/408 of 9 December 2011 to organize the Government, as amended and supplemented by Decree No. 2018/190 of 2 March 2018;
- Mindful** of Decree No. 2020/111 of 2 March 2020 on the establishment, organization and functioning of the National School of Local Administration,

**HEREBY DECREES AS FOLLOWS:**

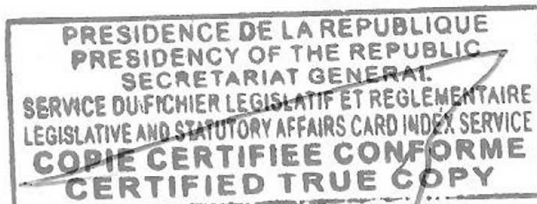
**CHAPTER I**

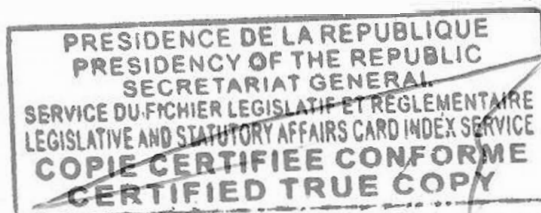
**GENERAL PROVISIONS**

**ARTICLE 1:** This decree lays down conditions for carrying out municipal policing.

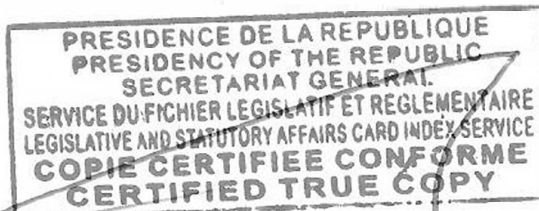
**ARTICLE 2:** (1) The purpose of municipal policing shall be to maintain order, safety, tranquillity, security and public sanitation on the territory of the council or city council.

- (2) Municipal policing shall be under the authority of the mayor.
- (3) The municipal policing referred to in paragraph 1 above shall consist in:
- (a) ensuring safety and convenience of passage through streets, quays, public squares and roads, in particular:
- cleaning;
  - street lighting;
  - clearing congestions;
  - demolishing or repairing buildings in danger of collapse;
  - removing items or substances which may cause damage or harmful exhalations;
  - facilitating road crossing for pupils, students and other users;





- easing traffic on public roads and at intersections, under the supervision of the forces of law and order;
  - regulating the parking of vehicles on public roads;
  - (b) transportation, burial and exhumation of corpses, and maintenance of order and decency in cemeteries, without allowing special treatment or requirements due to the circumstances of the death;
  - (c) participation, where necessary, in the inspection of apparatuses and/or instruments for handling foodstuffs sold by weight or measure, conducted by the competent government services;
  - (d) safety of edible foodstuffs displayed for sale, in conjunction with the competent sector government services;
  - (e) implementation of civil protection activities at the council or community. Such activities include:
    - preventing, through appropriate precautions, and intervening, by distributing necessary aid, in case of accidents and disasters such as fires, floods or any other natural accidents, contagious diseases, epidemics and epizootics;
    - implementing emergency safety, assistance and rescue measures and, where necessary, resorting to the intervention of the representative of the State, to whom the prescribed measures are reported;
  - (f) necessary measures against the mentally deranged whose condition may compromise public morals, the safety of persons or the preservation of property, notably:
    - by taking mentally deranged and wandering persons to the competent health facilities;
    - defraying, within the limits of available resources, the costs of treating the mentally deranged in the said health facilities;
  - (g) acting to prevent or remedy untoward events that may be caused by stray animals;
  - (h) demolition of buildings constructed without building permits;
  - (i) supervision of buildings belonging to the council, city council or district council;
  - (j) supporting the council revenue office in collecting revenue for the council, city council or district council;
  - (k) controlling and verifying permits and authorizations issued by the council, city council or district council.
- (4) The duties of the municipal police referred to in paragraph 3 above shall be performed in conjunction with the competent government services.



**ARTICLE 3:** (1) Under the supervision of the representative of the State, the mayor shall be responsible for municipal policing and enforcement of acts of the State relating thereto, by way of orders and decisions.

(2) The powers of the municipal police may not be delegated to a public service.

**ARTICLE 4:** (1) Municipal policing shall be carried out by council employees designated for that purpose.

(2) Under the direct authority of the mayor, municipal police officers shall put on record the offences falling within the competence of the mayor.

(3) They shall serve summonses issued by the mayor and impose the fines provided for in this regard.

**ARTICLE 5:** (1) Municipal police officers shall not replace the forces of law and order.

(2) They may not use force on or coerce the population, except in cases of self-defence.

**ARTICLE 6:** Municipal policing shall be performed between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m., except for traffic control on public roads, standing sentries at council buildings or the surveillance of ceremonies, feasts and celebrations organized by or under the patronage of the council.

## CHAPTER II

### ESTABLISHMENT OF A MUNICIPAL POLICE SERVICE

**ARTICLE 7:** (1) The establishment of a municipal police service shall be authorized by resolution of the municipal council which shall determine the powers, resources and operating rules thereof.

(2) The resolution referred to in paragraph 1 above, transmitted by the representative of the State, shall be submitted to the minister in charge of regional and local authorities for prior approval.

**ARTICLE 8:** (1) Two or more neighbouring councils of the same division may set up, by concurring resolutions, a single municipal police service.

(2) The resolutions referred to in paragraph 1 above shall specify the powers, resources and operating rules of the municipal police as well as conditions for the pooling of officers and equipment.

**ARTICLE 9:** (1) In areas that have been upgraded to city council, the municipal police service shall be provided either by employees of the city council or by those of the district council.

(2) In both cases, the services concerned may not be set up without prior consultation between the executive bodies of the city council and the district council, sanctioned by an agreement established by regulation.

(3) The concurring resolutions of the city council and the district council, echoing the provisions of the agreement referred to in paragraph 2 above, shall determine the level and type of intervention of the respective services of the city council and the district council.

(4) In the event of disagreement, the municipal police service set up by the district council shall, as of right, carry out municipal policing.

**ARTICLE 10:** Conflicts between the municipal police services of the city council and district councils, arising from the performance of their duties or the exercise of their activities, shall be referred to the territorially competent senior divisional officer for arbitration and, in case of non-conciliation, to the minister in charge of regional and local authorities.

### CHAPTER III

#### ORGANIZATION AND FUNCTIONING OF THE MUNICIPAL POLICE SERVICE

**ARTICLE 11:** (1) The municipal police service shall be organized in accordance with the approved organization charts and the specificities of each council.

(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 1 above, the municipal police service may include subdivisions specifically responsible for:

- hygiene and sanitation;
- risk prevention;
- protection of the environment and the health of the population;
- public assistance.

(3) Subdivisions other than those stated in paragraph 2 above may be set up within the municipal police service, as and where necessary.

**ARTICLE 12:** (1) Municipal police officers shall perform their duties in strict respect for the rights and freedoms of the population and in compliance with the laws and regulations in force.

(2) In carrying out their activities, they may resort to the forces of law and order, according to the conditions laid down by this decree.

**ARTICLE 13:** (1) The head of the municipal police service shall report to the mayor daily on the activities of the service.

(2) In case of intervention leading to judicial police measures, he shall refer simultaneously to the territorially competent mayor and any judicial police officer of the national police or the national gendarmerie.



**ARTICLE 14:** Where the nature of their intervention and circumstances so warrant, municipal police officers may be authorized to exercise coercion only on goods, upon a reasoned request from the mayor to the territorially competent administrative authority.

**ARTICLE 15:** (1) During a special event, incidental to a large influx of people or a natural disaster, the mayors of neighbouring councils may be authorized to jointly use all or part of the human and logistic resources of their municipal police services, on the territory of one or more councils, for a specific period of time. This option shall be applied exclusively for administrative policing.

(2) The joint use of the above-mentioned resources shall be authorized by order of the representative of the State in the division, who shall determine the terms and conditions in the light of proposals from the mayors of the councils concerned.

#### **CHAPTER IV** **RESOURCES OF THE MUNICIPAL POLICE**

**ARTICLE 16:** In the performance of its duties, the municipal police shall have human resources, attributes and equipment.

#### **I- HUMAN RESOURCES**

**ARTICLE 17:** (1) The mayor shall recruit and manage the staff of the municipal police service in accordance with the laws and regulations in force.

(2) Notwithstanding the general conditions of recruiting the staff of regional and local authorities, municipal police officers shall meet the following conditions:

- be of Cameroonian nationality;
- enjoy their civic rights;
- be of good character;
- be holder of certificates corresponding to the level of the position applied for;
- be physically fit for the position applied for;
- have never been convicted of a crime or misdemeanour;
- be at least 21 (twenty-one) and no more than 35 (thirty-five) years of age at the time of recruitment.

(3) At the behest of the mayor, applicants for recruitment into the municipal police shall undergo a prior background check by the competent State services.

(4) Any current or former member of the defence and security forces shall not be eligible for recruitment into the municipal police.

(5) Recruitment into the municipal police shall take into account the gender and sociological composition of the council concerned.

**ARTICLE 18:** (1) The duties of municipal police officer may only be performed by council employees recruited for this purpose.



(2) Before taking up their duties, municipal police officers shall, at the initiative of the council, receive basic training or retraining in the management of public liberties, urban order management techniques, public assistance, civil protection or any other field within their competence.

(3) The training and retraining referred to in paragraph 2 above shall be provided by the National School of Local Administration, which shall draw up the training curricula.

(4) A separate instrument of the minister in charge of regional and local authorities shall lay down the code of conduct of municipal police officers.

**ARTICLE 19:** (1) Municipal police officers shall be judicial police officers with special jurisdiction. As such, they shall take the oath at the territorially competent Court of First Instance before assuming office.

(2) The wording of the oath referred to in paragraph 1 above shall be as follows: "*I swear to properly and faithfully perform my duties as municipal police officer, impartially and in compliance with the Constitution, the laws and regulations in force and citizens' rights and freedoms*".

(3) A separate instrument shall determine the municipal police officers entitled to take an oath, and specify the conditions of implementation of this article.

## **II- ATTRIBUTES OF MUNICIPAL POLICE OFFICERS**

**ARTICLE 20:** (1) Municipal police officers shall be required to put on a uniform.

(2) Putting on a uniform shall be mandatory during service.

(3) The uniform referred to in paragraph 1 above shall be identical for all councils and shall be as follows:

- a pair of dark purple trousers;
- a straight dark purple skirt below knee level for female staff, who may also put on trousers;
- a long or short-sleeved shirt, light purple in colour with the words "POLICE MUNICIPALE" or "MUNICIPAL POLICE" in large letters at the back, followed by the name of the council;
- a dark purple round-neck pullover;
- a black leather belt, with a harness;
- a pair of low black leather shoes;
- a pair of black leather heeled shoes for female staff, who may also put on low shoes;



- a pair of black socks;
- a dark purple peaked cap;
- a raincoat;
- a pair of rangers.

(4) The shirt and pullover must have the following legibly embroidered or engraved at chest level:

- on the left hand side: the full name and service number of the municipal police officer;
- on the right hand side: the name of the council where they work.

(5) An order of the minister in charge of regional and local authorities shall specify the features of the uniform referred to in paragraph 1 above.

**ARTICLE 21:** (1) Each council or public inter-council cooperation establishment recruiting and placing one or several municipal police officers at the disposal of councils, may provide them with the appropriate uniforms if they belong to specialized sub-divisions or carry out duties other than general service.

(2) The features of the uniforms referred to in paragraph 1 above shall be determined by an order of the minister in charge of regional and local authorities.

**ARTICLE 22:** No item, insignia or sign worn on the uniform shall have any link with a political organization, trade union, association or religious affiliation.

### III- MUNICIPAL POLICE EQUIPMENT

**ARTICLE 23:** (1) The mayor shall provide the municipal police service with the necessary rolling stock to carry out its duties.

(2) The rolling stock referred to in paragraph 1 above shall comprise:

- vehicles;
- ambulances;
- hearses;
- tow trucks;
- motorbikes;
- bicycles;
- horses.



**ARTICLE 24:** (1) In the performance of its duties and depending on the specificity of each intervention, the municipal police service may use the following equipment:

- violet coloured vests with grey reflective stripes;
- safety helmets;
- two-way radios;
- torches;
- metal clogs;
- whistles with drawstrings;
- lassos.



(2) A municipal police officer may not carry or use a weapon.

**ARTICLE 25:** Municipal police officers shall be accountable for the material and equipment placed at their disposal. They may use such material and equipment only in the performance of their duties.

**ARTICLE 26:** The uniform, insignia, signage of service cars and the type of technical equipment with which the municipal police officers are equipped shall be distinct, by their colour and inscriptions, from those worn by the national police, the national gendarmerie or any other surveillance and security services and forces and should not lead to any confusion whatsoever.

#### CHAPTER V RELATIONS BETWEEN THE MUNICIPAL POLICE SERVICE AND THE FORCES OF LAW AND ORDER

**ARTICLE 27:** (1) The mayor may, where necessary, request from the territorially competent administrative authority, the assistance of law enforcement officers to supervise the municipal police in the performance of their duties.

(2) Once the competent administrative authority has granted the mayor's request, the law enforcement officers shall be bound to support the mayor in accordance with the laws and regulations in force.

(3) Cooperation between the forces of law and order and the mayor in municipal policing shall be honorary. However, the mayor may provide the forces of law and order with working facilities.

**ARTICLE 28:** (1) The council shall be liable for the acts committed by the law enforcement officers in the performance of municipal policing duties.

(2) The liability of the council referred to in paragraph 1 above shall be waived in the event of:

- refusal to provide the assistance requested by the mayor;
- execution by the law enforcement officers of an instruction from the administrative authority or their superior;
- personal misconduct of the law enforcement officer.



**ARTICLE 29:** (1) Municipal police officers shall not obstruct the operations of the forces of law and order.

(2) Their criminal liability shall be established for any opposition to the operations referred to in paragraph 1 above, without prejudice to the disciplinary measures that may be taken against them.

**ARTICLE 30:** (1) When checking the existence and validity of administrative documents falling under the jurisdiction of the mayor, municipal police officers shall have authority, in the event of a proven violation of regulations, to verify and note the identity of the offender.

(2) Where the offender refuses to comply or is unable to prove their identity, the municipal police officer shall immediately report the matter to the mayor, who may refer the matter to any territorially competent judicial police officer of the national police or the national gendarmerie. The latter may then order the offender to immediately present his identity document to the municipal police officer. In the absence of such an order, the municipal police officer may not detain the offender, his identity document or the administrative document in question.

## CHAPTER VI PENALTIES

**ARTICLE 31:** (1) The municipal police service may be suspended by order of the minister in charge of regional and local authorities or the territorially competent senior divisional officer, for a period of one (1) month, renewable in the event of:

- widespread abuse committed by officers without any measures taken by the mayor to put an end thereto;
- failure to comply with the operating rules of the service;
- failure to comply with the provisions of this decree.

(2) The suspension referred to in paragraph 1 above shall be lifted under the same form and procedure once the causes that led to it no longer exist.

(3) Without prejudice to criminal penalties, any municipal police officer who uses force or coercion on citizens in violation of the provisions of this decree, or who does not comply with the obligations deriving from the performance of his duties, shall be liable to disciplinary measures and legal proceedings.

(4) The terms of the penalties provided for in paragraphs 1 and 3 above shall be specified by regulation.

**ARTICLE 32:** The minister in charge of regional and local authorities may, by virtue of the specificity of the duties of the municipal police service and at the request of any competent authority or if he deems it necessary, have the organization and functioning of the service inspected.



**CHAPTER VII**  
**TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS**

**ARTICLE 33:** (1) Councils with a municipal police service shall have a period of 18 (eighteen) months from the date of publication of this decree to comply with the provisions thereof.

(2) Councils that have forwarded resolutions on the establishment of a municipal police service not yet approved on the date of publication of this decree, shall be required to produce new resolutions in accordance with Article 7 of this decree.

**ARTICLE 34:** Staff currently serving in existing municipal police services must, at the behest of the council to which they are attached, be retrained by the National School of Local Administration under specific training sessions.

**ARTICLE 35:** Separate instruments shall, as and where necessary, specify the conditions of implementation of this decree.

**ARTICLE 36:** This decree shall be registered, published according to the procedure of urgency and inserted in the Official Gazette in English and French./-



**PAUL BIYA**  
**PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC**