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Presents

The Adventures of FATOU

EVERYONE... TO THE POLLS !

VOLUME 2



Supplement : some excerpts of the Electoral Code

«Everyone... to the pools»

*Year 2000 Edition is realized with funding from the US Government
through the Democracy and Human Rights Fund*

«The Adventures of FATOU»
VOLUME 2

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Nouveaux Droits de l'Homme wishes to thank all individual and corporate bodies who have lent us their support in the realization of our activities.

Since 1994, we have been facing serious and insurmountable difficulties but thanks to your support we have been able to overcome them all.

By so doing we have been able to contribute significantly in building a veritable democracy and maintaining civil peace in Cameroon.

We are referring specially to :

- The US Government since 1994 has been lending us its constant and sustained support and encouragements ;*
- The French Government through its encouragements and moral support since 1996 ;*
- The UN through its Political Affairs Department ;*
- The UN High Commission for Human Rights ;*
- NDH - France ;*
- Friedrich-Ebert Foundation ;*
- The American Cultural Center ;*
- The British Council ;*
- All International NGOs which so far accepted our partnership.*

We are convinced that thanks to your support we would contribute further in building a state of law and good Governance in Cameroon.

Hilaire KAMGA

UN VNU Expert

NOTE TO THE READER

Dear reader, this is a comic strip with a difference.

Not because it is original in terms of its iconic design. Far from that ! It is one with a difference because apart from its entertaining character, it also seeks to achieve a didactic and ever pedagogic aim.

The birth of democracy in young African States in general and in Cameroon in particular has been so far quite painful. This has justified and underscored the need for a serene and effective evolution of such a process.

Although African leaders have demonstrated their willingness to democratize or perfect the current democratic systems, willingness alone is not enough to spur up the emergence of a sound and honest democracy that would usher in genuine changes as policy makers rather have to deal with people who are still victims of backwardness, ignorance and illiteracy.

It is therefore pressing and indispensable to undertake to popularize the rules of law and the principles of good governance to ensure that Africans would become educated, alert and enlightened citizens.

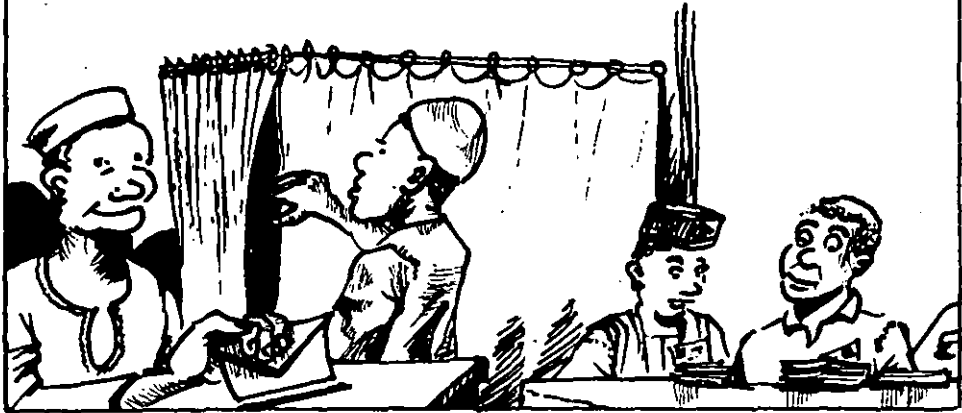
For this purpose, Conscience Africaine launched since 1995 its programme known as APPEL-CAM mostly dedicated to training the population and political actors on election issues. Hence, "The Adventures of Fatou" in its original title "Everyone to the Polls" which is an appeal to the population to go to the polls, is one of the projects undertaken by Conscience Africains in this light.

In 1996, ELICA and EMFP (Election Monitoring and Education Projet) were launched in the same perspective.

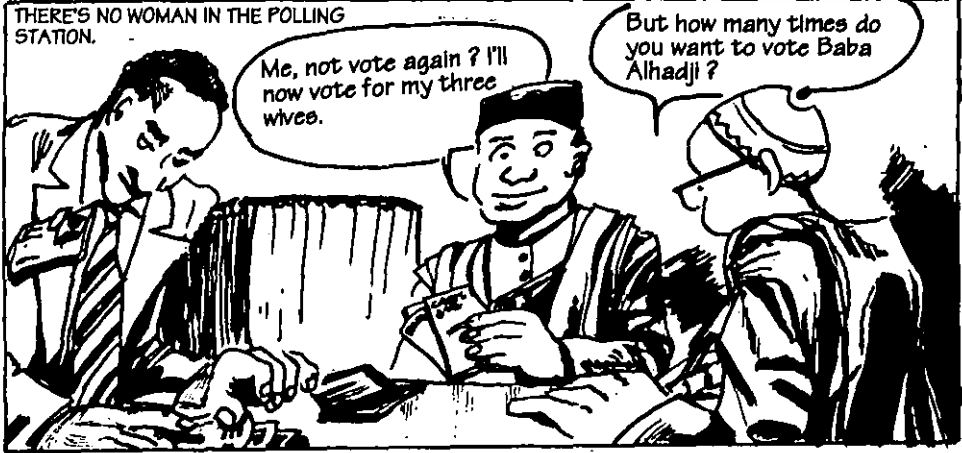
This comic strip is therefore exclusively intended for all Cameroonians of voting age who can read and are able today or in the future to play a crucial role, through the ballot box, in forging the destiny of their country. We wish to believe that this would enable African democracy in general and Cameroonian democracy in particular to reap as much fruits as possible from the situation.

This new edition published in collaboration with NDH-Cameroon was sponsored by the US Government through the "Democracy and Human Rights Fund" of the US Embassy in Yaounde.

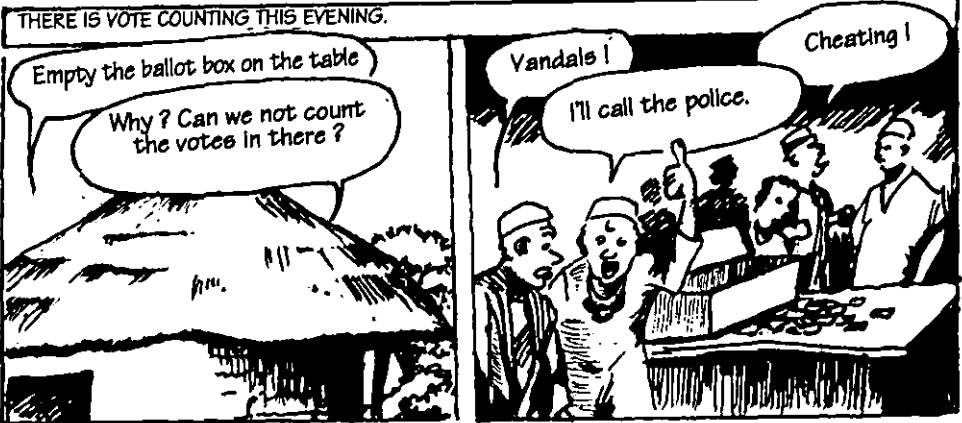
ON THAT DAY, IN THE BORNEY VILLAGE, THERE WILL BE ELECTIONS.



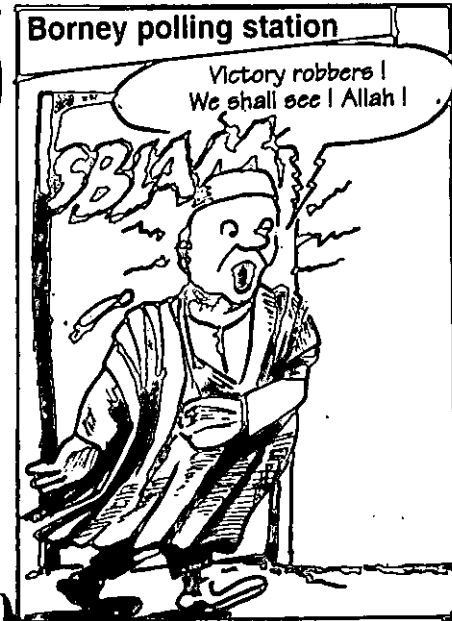
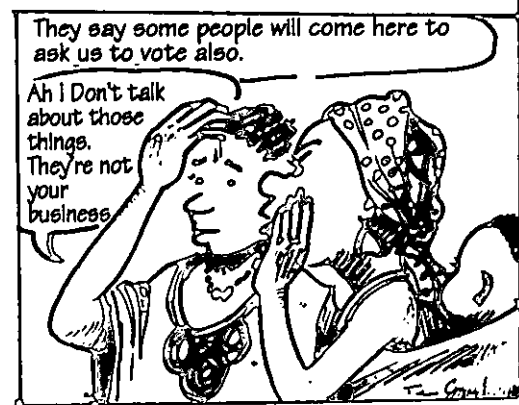
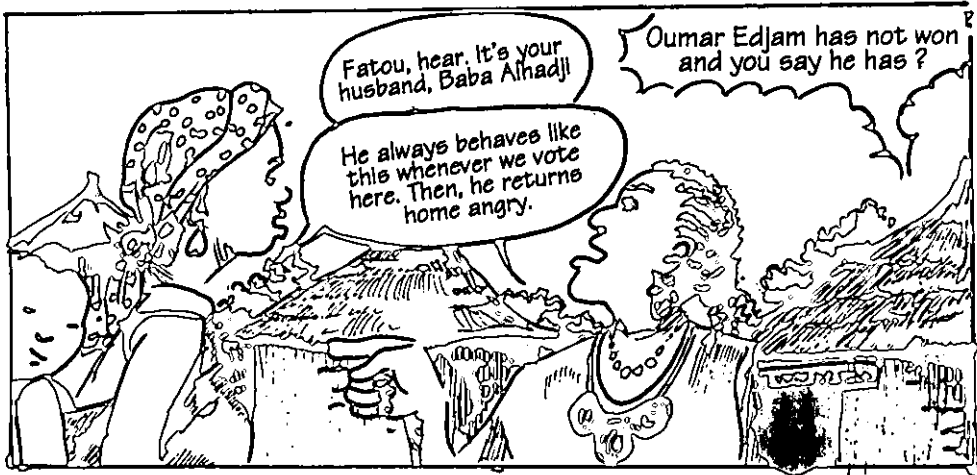
THERE'S NO WOMAN IN THE POLLING STATION.



THERE IS VOTE COUNTING THIS EVENING.



VOTING IS AN EXPRESSION OF A SOVEREIGN PEOPLE. NO ONE MAY VOTE FOR THE OTHER EXCEPT AT THE REQUEST OF THE VOTER AND IN HIS PRESENCE (Section 81 of Law n° 92/010)

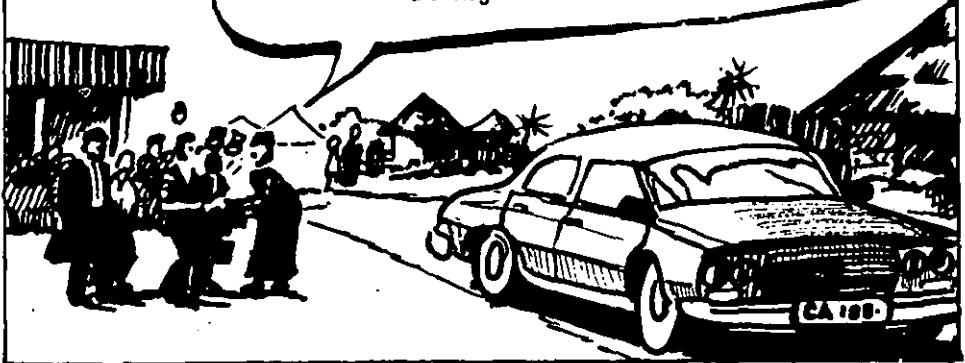


A FEW MONTHS LATER, A COMMISSION GOES ROUND THE COUNTRY TO SENSITIZE CITIZENS ON THE ELECTION PROCESS

EVERY CITIZEN AT LEAST TWENTY YEARS OLD, WITHOUT DISTINCTION OF SEX, MUST BE INTERESTED IN ELECTORAL ISSUES. ELECTION IS THE BASIS OF DEMOCRACY AND DEMOCRACY IS THE BASIS OF DEVELOPMENT. (8)

MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION ARE WELCOME ON ARRIVAL BY A LOCAL DIGNITARY.

It's me Oumarou Djam, the only candidate for Borney. I must win for...



...Let's take something in my house!

Sorry, Mr Djam. We're busy. Keep your chickens and champagnes.

SWANK !!



My sister. They say some people have come from Yaounde. It must be those men over there. Let's go and see for ourselves.

Kaï! If Baba Alhadji sees me there, he'll kill me.

You too... They say that they've come for us. Let's go.

Well, I'll simply accompany you.



GETTING THE PEOPLE INFORMED OF THE ELECTION PROCESS IS A REQUIREMENT IN DEMOCRACY.

SOME TIMES LATER.

Those of you who are already twenty years old, both boys and girls should get registered on the election register. Ask for your voter's card. Before the election day, make sure that all the ballot papers of all the candidates are there. And more especially, make sure later on that your choice is respected.



Women and youths, the success of the process depends on you.



You now see what I was telling you ?

And do you think that Baba Alhadji will accept that ?



WOMEN CONSTITUTE 54% OF THE CAMEROONIAN POPULATION. THEREFORE, THE GREATEST NUMBER OF ELECTORS.

GETTING ONESELF REGISTERED IS NOT AN EASY TASK.

You've not yet got yourself registered and you're just staying like that? Today is the last day!



Since we've been going up and down we're not been able to get ourselves registered.



Follow me all of you. They will register us this very evening.



Write our names, we've already been here several times.



Hem! Calm down. Have you women come here to give orders? Know that we are already through with our task for the day. Call later.

Never! We know that this is the last day.



Sirs, there're still about 50 women outside who are determined to enter if you don't want to register them. And you will see.

But it's already dark !



FINALLY, RATHER RELUCTANTLY...

Here's a lamp !
Register them !



A FEW WEEKS LATER, FATOU AND ONE OF THE OTHER WIVES OF HER HUSBAND GO TO COLLECT THEIR VOTER'S CARDS.

What's this ? Since when have women been doing politics here ?
Get out with it !



DON'T FORGET TO COLLECT YOUR ELECTOR'S CARD BEFORE ELECTIONS.

BUT BABA ALHADJI CHANGES HIS MIND.

These women may be right.
Even Oumar Edjam...



Here I am Baba

Woman, you may vote.
But, I'll tel for whom!

Thank you, Baba,
Thank you!



THE FOLLOWING DAY, FATOU MEETS HER FRIEND MYRIAM IN A COTTON FIELD AND TELLS HER HER ADVENTURE.

So, he agreed?

Yes. But I'll not vote for
any candidate who has
been imposed on me.



You're right. We've got to vote
tactically.

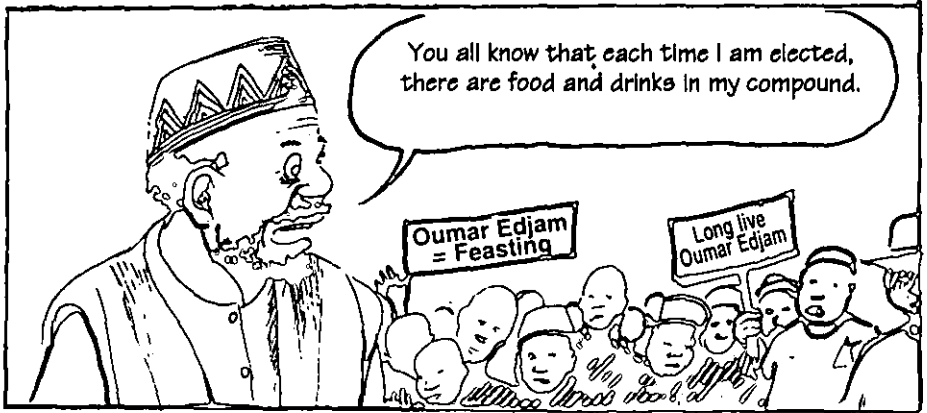
What does that mean?



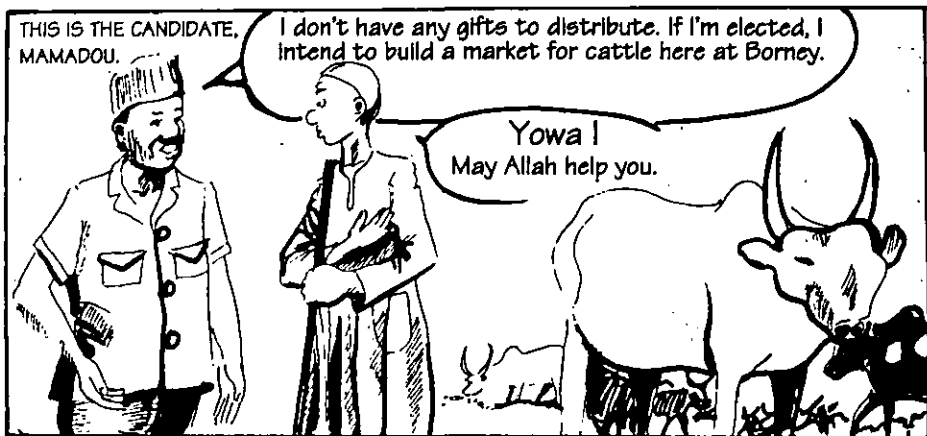
Without mentioning any
names.



A VOTE IS A FREE CHOICE.



VOTERS SHOULD NEVER BE INFLUENCED BY CAMPAIGN GIFTS.



...BECAUSE SOMEONE WHO THINKS OF YOU ONLY ON ELECTION DAY WILL FORGET YOU SOON AFTERWARDS...

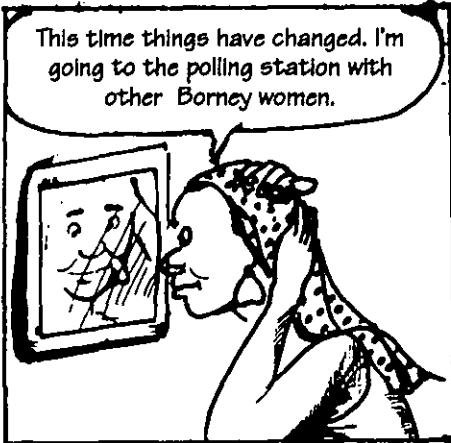


ONLY COHERENT ACTION PROGRAMMES AND THE INTEGRITY OF CANDIDATES SHOULD DETERMINE YOUR CHOICE.

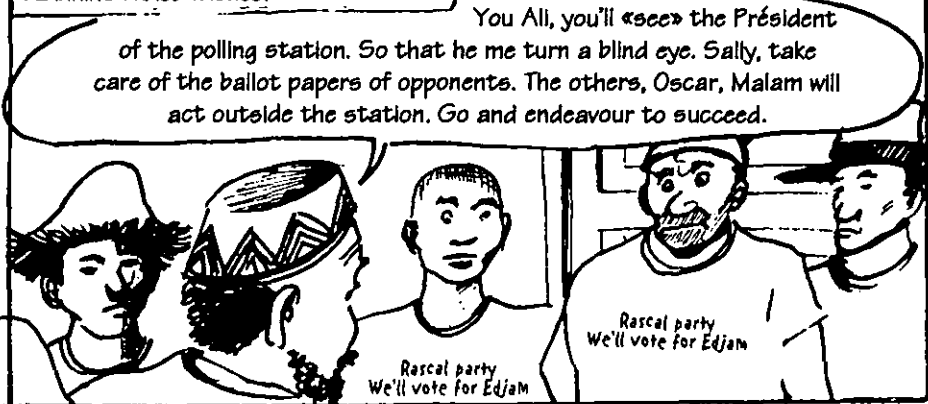


DURING ELECTION CAMPAIGNS, VOTERS SHOULD TRY TO QUESTION CANDIDATES ABOUT THEIR PROGRAMME OF ACTION.

ON THE D-DAY, BORNEY VILLAGE GETS UP IN THE USUAL MOOD.

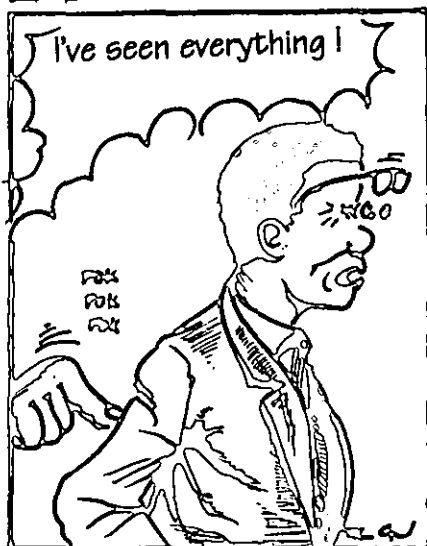
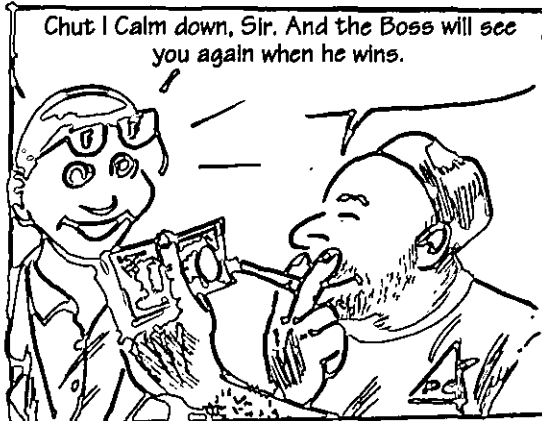


MEANWHILE ELSEWHERE, PEOPLE ARE BUSY PLANNING FRAUD TACTICS.

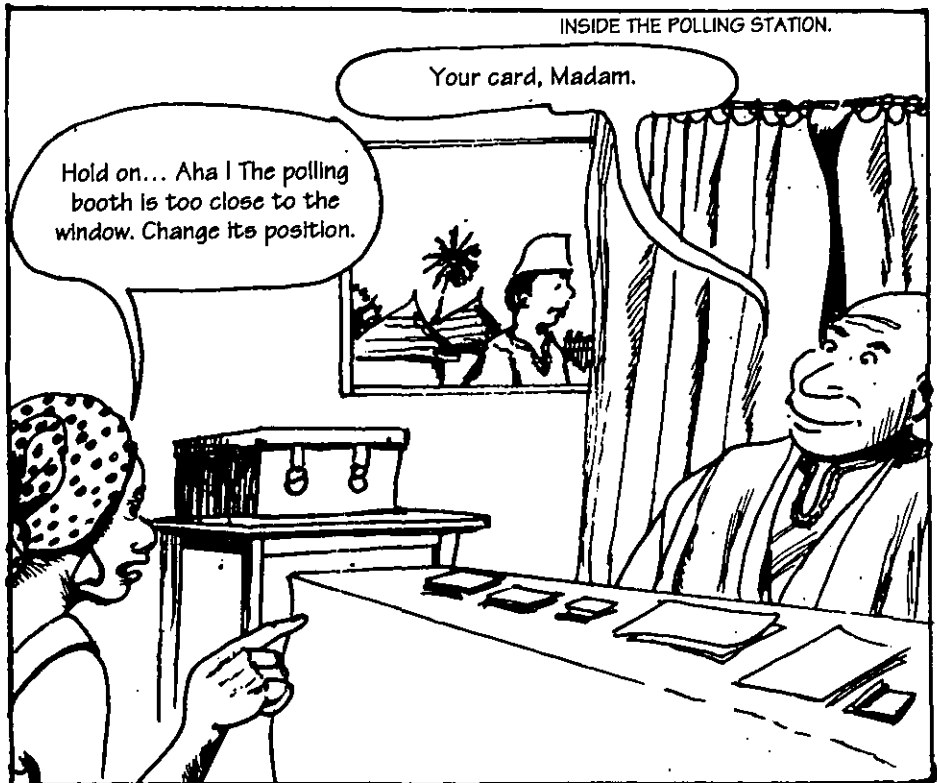


ON ELECTION DAY, GET UP EARLY, TAKE YOUR BREAKFAST, TAKE YOUR NATIONAL IDENTITY CARD AND ESPECIALLY YOUR ELECTOR'S CARD. GO TO THE POLLING STATION WHICH YOU WOULD HAVE LOCATED ONE DAY EARLIER.

SOON LATER, THE FOUR HENCHMEN GET INFRONT OF THE POLLING STATION. THEY DISCUSS WITH A MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION.



WATCH OUT! MONEY CANNOT INFLUENCE THE DEMOCRATIC GAME.



IF YOU NOTICE ANY IRREGULARITY AGAINST THE ELECTORAL CODE, INFORM THE PRESIDENT OF THE POLLING STATION IN A POLITE MANNER.

INSIDE THE POLLING BOOTH, FATOU DISCOVERS THAT THE BALLOT PAPERS OF ONE OF THE CANDIDATE ARE SCATTERED ON THE FLOOR.



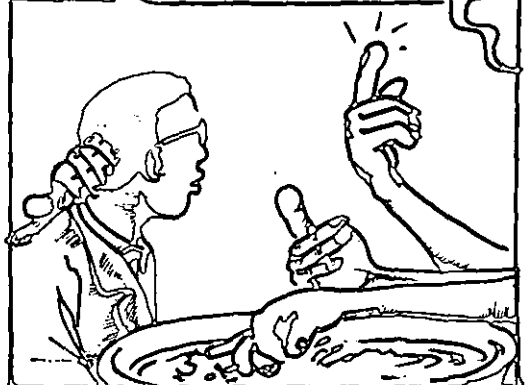
Mamadou's ballot papers!!!

Also pick up these ballot papers scattered in the polling booth and arrange them correctly among others.



Look! Water has removed everything. Change the ink.

It's being said that the ink must stick on the finger. Bring some water, let's see.

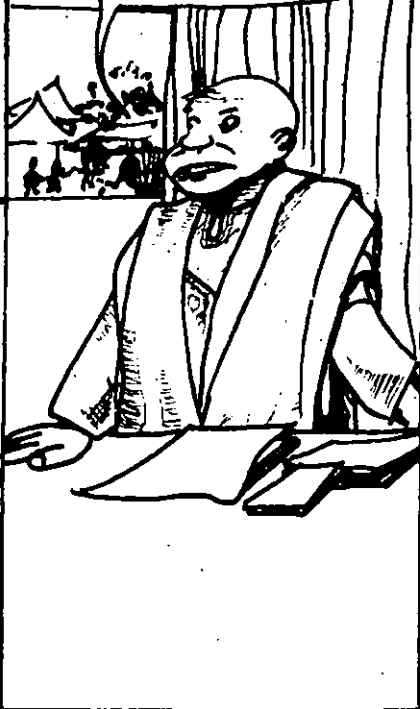


THE ELECTION COMMISSION ENSURES COMPLIANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE ELECTORAL CODE. (20)

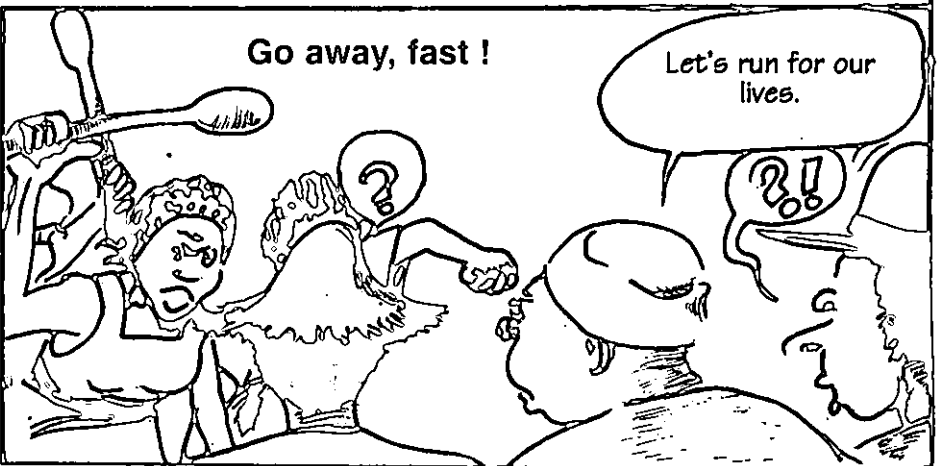
Look again. Outside, Oumar Edjam's men are still talking to people.



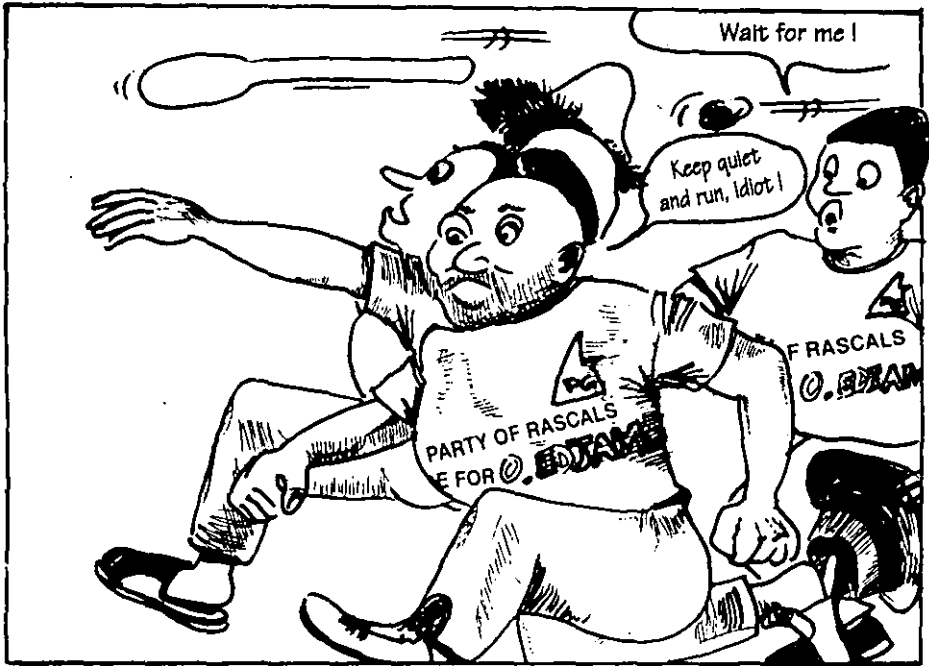
Madam, cast your vote and go!
Don't bring us ill-luck here.



EVERY VOTER HAS THE RIGHT TO SIGNAL ANY IRREGULARITIES AND REPORT THEM TO THE APPROPRIATE AUTHORITY. THE LAW PROVIDES FOR PUNISHMENT FOR ANY ELECTION OFFICIAL FOUND GUILTY OF CORRUPTION (Confer Section 111 of Law n° 92/10)



NO VOTER HAS THE RIGHT TO SEEK JUSTICE THROUGH VIOLENCE.



LATER ON INSIDE, THE PRESIDENT IS BOUND TO RETURN TO A BETTER FRAME OF MIND.

Perhaps you want my group to enter here?

It's alright. We'll do whatever you ask.



As such, Ladies and gentlemen you may cast your votes with complete peace of mind and serenity.



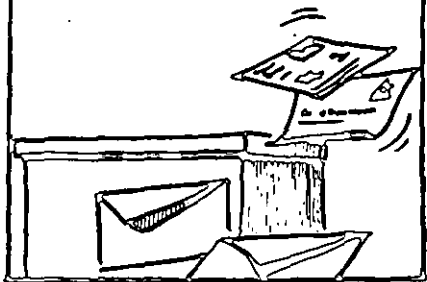
MEMBERS OF THE ELECTION COMMISSION SHOULD BE CAUTIOUS, HONEST AND LEGALISTIC, FOR MOB JUSTICE MAY BE FATAL.



See how this affair
has damaged me.



VOTING OPERATIONS HAVE ENDED THIS
AFTER WITHOUT ANY MAJOR INCIDENT.



VOTING CONSISTS IN PUTTING THE BALLOT PAPER CHOSEN INTO THE ENVELOPE AND THEN PUTTING THE ENVELOPE INTO THE BALLOT BOX.

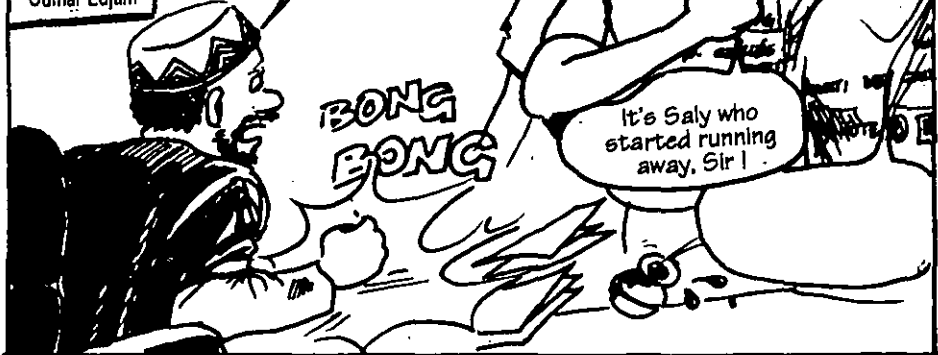
HOWEVER, AT THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE PARTY OF RASCALS.

Gans of good-for-nothing. I've paid to win this election and you've let yourselves to be intimidated by these vulgar women? I don't know what stopping me from strangling you all.

Vote for he who reassures, Oumar Edjam

BONG
BONG

It's Saly who started running away, Sir!



Keep quiet! Go back there and make sure that the report shows that I've won. You must succeed!

Called Edjam



MEANWHILE AT THE POLLING STATION VOTE COUNTING IS ALMOST OVER UNDER THE WATCHFUL EYES OF SEVERAL VILLAGERS.

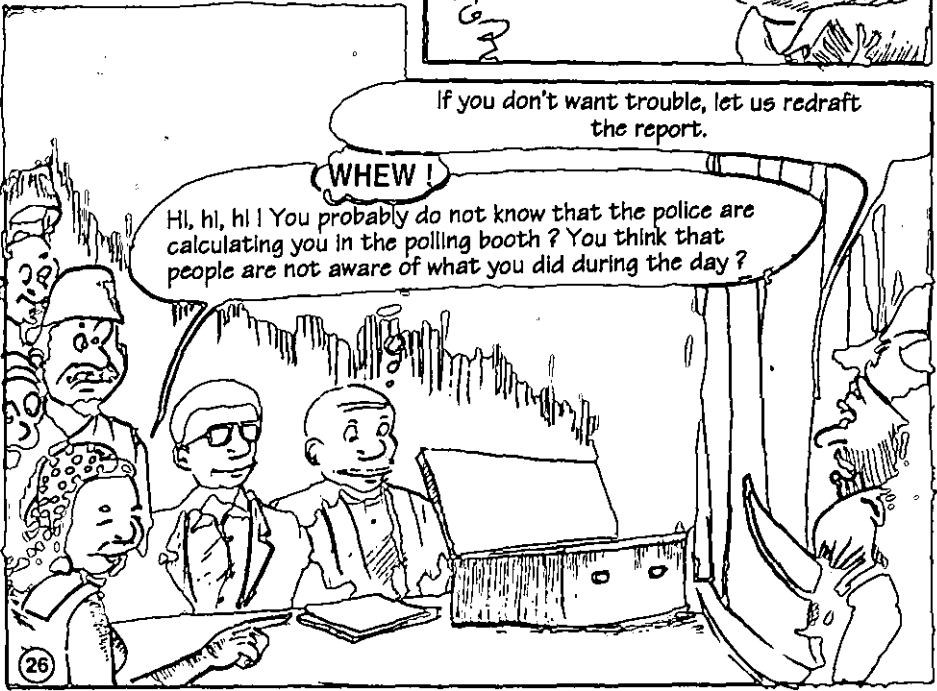
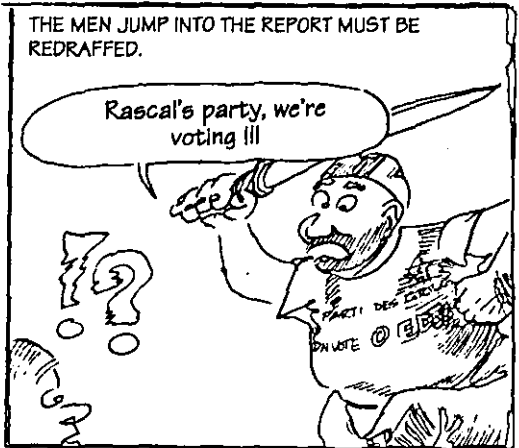
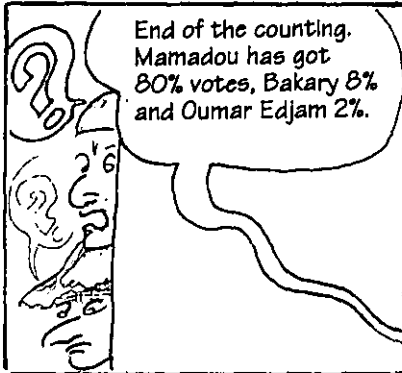
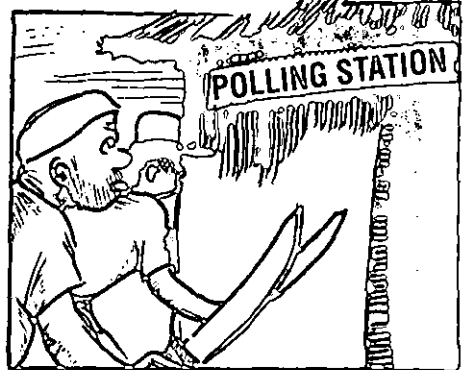
One more vote for the candidate Mamadou. That was the last ballot paper.

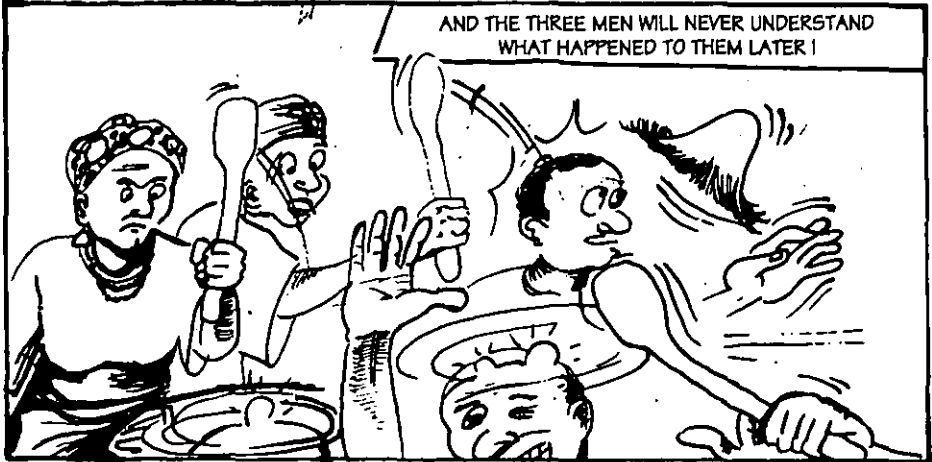
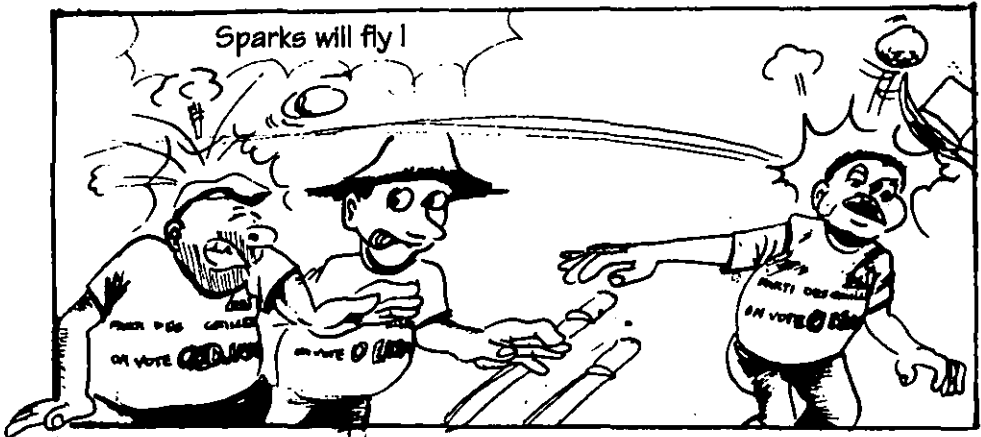
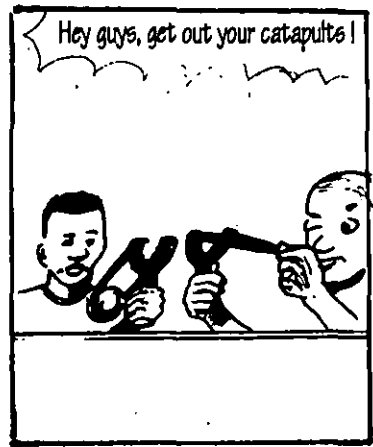


IF YOU ARE LAST TO VOTE, YOU MAY TAKE PART IN THE VOTE COUNTING EXERCISE. IT'S YOUR RIGHT.

OUTSIDE OUMAROU DJAM'S MEN ARE COMING.

AFTER NEUTRALIZING THE POLICEMAN...



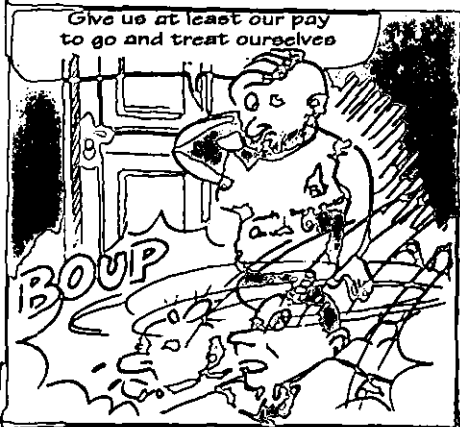


IF YOU VOTE EARLY IN THE DAY, YOU MAY COME LATER AT THE END OF THE VOTE ARMED WITH TORCHES IN ORDER TO TAKE PART IN THE COUNTING OF VOTES. IT'S YOUR RIGHT. YOU CAN NEVER PREDICT, THERE CAN BE UNFORESEEN REACTIONS.



Ah! Victory is easy, if you can manage your way.

Toe Toe Toe



Give us at least our pay to go and treat ourselves

BOUP



You've failed again and dare talk to me about your pay? I'll explode!

Calm down Boss All is set for...

\$ \$ \$



Calm down? I'll kill you first. How am I going to payback my debts? Hein? Tell me!

He's grown completely mad. Can't you see, Oscar?

Keep quiet and run away

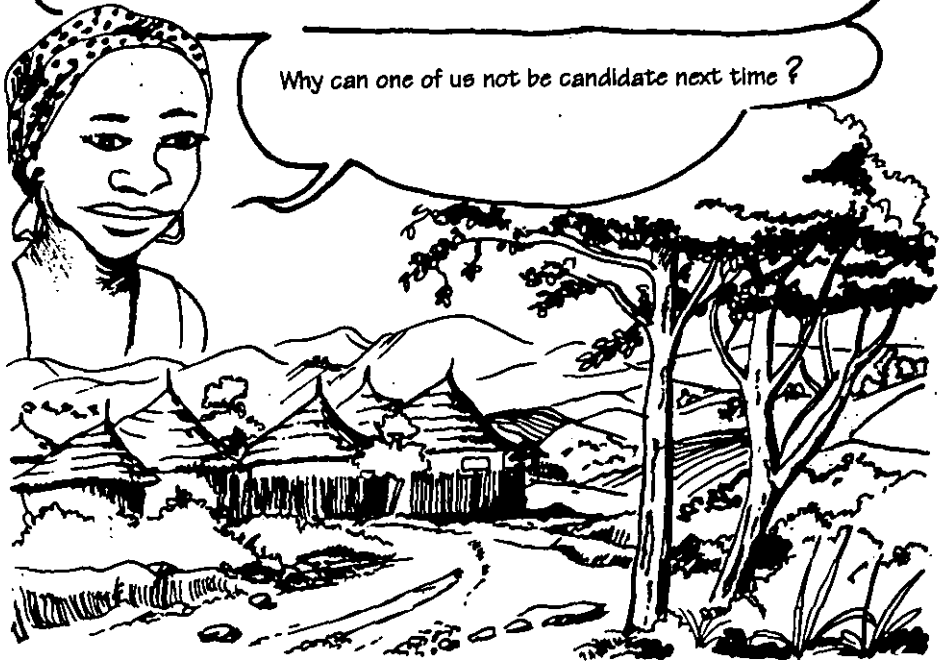
HA HA HA HA HA HA HA

AN ELECTION IS A COMPETITION WHERE THE VICTORY OF THE BEST SHOULD BE ACCEPTED BY ALL. THERE MUST BE FAIR-PLAY AND RESPECT FOR THE VERDICT.

A FEW MONTHS LATER, THE INHABITANTS OF BORNEY ARE BUSY CARRYING OUT THEIR DAILY ACTIVITIES AS USUAL.



Listen Myrlam. What we have done is what every citizen ought to do. And moreover after the experience...



YOU ALSO LADIES, YOUNGMEN AND OF COURSE, YOU MEN, YOU CAN BECOME MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT OR PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC, WHY NOT ?

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

- * A vote is the expression of a sovereign people. No one may vote on behalf of another except at the request of voter who is equally present.
- * Any citizen aged at least 20 years irrespective of his sex, religion, must be concerned with election issues.
- * Election constitutes the basis of democracy and democracy sustain development.
- * Registration on voter registers begin on January 1st each year. Don't forget to collect your voter's card before elections.
- * Members of the Registration commission should ease up the task of voters. They ensure compliance with the law as any person guilty or corruption is punishable by the law.
- * Getting the population informed of the rules of the political game and the election process is a requirement in democracy.
- * During election campaign, try to ask questions to candidates about their action programme, as only coherent programmes and the moral integrity of candidates should determine your choice. Never be influenced by "Campaign presents".
- * On election day get up early. Take your breakfast, and then your National Identity Card and your Voter registration Card and go to the polling station that you would located the day before.
- * During elections any voter has the right to signal any irregularity and to report it in a very polite manner to the President of the polling station or to any competent authority.
- * During voting operations, the voter must have a worthy attitude. He must not disrupt the voting operation. This means he must respect

others, must not push them, insult them or cause fighting. No one may enter the polling station with arms or alcoholic drinks. Equally, there should be no advertisement. People must be tolerant and accept differences.

* No one has the right to apply justice through violent means. The law enables recourse to justice free of charge in case of election differences.

* When you are among the last to vote, you have the right to take part in the counting operation. It is often necessary to take along a torch or a lamp as there may be light failure at anytime. All this must be done in order and discipline as the President may send out anybody for pool behaviour.

* Any voter can also be elected as municipal councilor, member of parliament or President of the Republic if he fulfills all the conditions required by law.

* An election is a game, a competition where the victory of the best must be accepted by all. There must be fair play and respect of the verdict of the election.

How to get registered : you're 20 years old, so take your National Identity Card. Go straight to your quarter head and get yourself registered on a voter register.

What should I do if my name does not appear on the voter register ? Just apply to the Divisional Officer at anytime.

Watch out : registration of voters begins on January 1 each year and end when the electoral corps is convened.

Supplement : some excerpts of the Electoral code

A-Law N° 92-002 of 14 August 1992

Section 6

(1) Every Cameroonian citizen enjoying the right to vote as defined in this law who has a place of abode in a council or has a place of abode in a council or has actually been therein for a last 6 (six) months shall be entitled to have his name entered on the register of electors for such council.

(2) Every Cameroonian citizen who does not satisfy the requirements concerning age, residence and place of abode specified in Sub-section 1 above at the time of the revision of the registers of electors shall further be entitled to have his name entered on the register of electors provided he shall satisfy such requirements on or before the date on which the register is finally closed.

B-Law N° 91-020 of 16 December 1991

Section 11

Every person of Cameroonian nationality or any naturalized Cameroonian, of either sex, who has reached the age of 20 years and is not under any of the disqualifications laid down by law, shall be entitled to be an elector.

Section 99

(1) No person shall be allowed to vote unless his name appears on the register of electors of the polling station concerned.

Section 49

(2) Entry on the register of electors shall be as of right and shall be carried out by or under the control of the Subdivisional Officer in close collaboration with the political parties operating in his area of jurisdiction.

Section 51

No person may have his name entered on more than one register of electors.

Section 52

Registers of electors shall be permanent. They shall be revised every year throughout the Republic. Senior Divisional Officers may order a thorough recompilation of the registers at the time of the annual revision.

Section 53

The annual revision of registers of electors shall commence on 1 January of each year throughout the Republic and shall be carried out in accordance with the following provisions :

a) Any citizen who satisfies the age and residence requirements to be registered as elector and any citizen who satisfies such requirements but whose name has been from such register may apply for registration to the Subdivisional Officer, even outside the time fixed for the annual revision of registers.

Section 54

(1) The revision Commission provided for under Section 29 of this law shall record in the register of electors the names of citizens whom it deems to have satisfy, the requirements laid down by the law, those who satisfy the age and residence requirements before the end of the deliberations of the Revision Commission and those names where previously omitted.

Section 55

(1) During the revision of registers of electors, a copy of the register shall be submitted to the council or subdivisional office and may be consulted by any person. During such period, any citizen whose name has been omitted from register may apply for registration.

Section 65

Every elector whose name has been entered on a register of electors shall be issued a registration card which shall indicate his full name, date of birth, filiation, occupation, residence or place of abode.

Law N° 97-020 of 9 September 1997

Section 110 : Whoever :

a) Cause his name to be entered on a register of electors under a false identity and, causing himself to be registered conceals a disqualification provided for by this law or claims the entry of his name on two or more registers ;

b) Causes his name to be improperly entered on a register of electors by means of fraudulent statements or false certificates, or by similar devices wrongly enters on or strikes off a register of electors the name of any citizen ;

c) Having been deprived of the right to vote participates in the election ;

d) Records a vote either by virtue of being fraudulently registered or by impersonating registered elector ;

e) By reason of the fact that his name appears on more than one register of electors vote more than once ;

f) Being responsible at the polls for receiving, counting or verifying the envelopes containing ballot papers withdraws, adds to or alters any ballot paper or reads a name other than the name actually appearing thereon ;

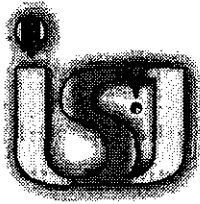
g) By spreading false news, false rumours or by other fraudulent devices reduces the number of votes or misappropriates same and influences an elector or electors to abstain from voting ;

h) In any of the commissions provided for in this law, either in a polling or in a Government office before, during or after and regulations or by any other fraudulent device, violates the secrecy of the ballot, affects the genuineness of the election, obstructs the counting of votes or alters the result thereof ;

i) Is guilty of fraud in the issue or production of a certificate showing that the name of a person is entered on or has been struck off the register of electors ;

j) On the day of election either as principal offender or accomplice, whether or not with force fraudulently removes or takes away a ballot-box shall be liable to the penalties laid down under Section 122 of the Penal Code.

2) Where the offender or his accomplice is a public servant within the meaning of Section 13 of the Penal Code, he shall be liable to the penalties laid under Section 141 of the Penal Code.



Imprimerie Saint-John SARL

CRÉATION - PRÉ-PRESSE - ÉDITION

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PRESENTATION OF CONSCIENCE AFRICAINE

- 1 - THE NETWORK : The "African Network of Grassroots Democracy project" known as Conscience Africaine was initiated in New York (United State of America) in august 1994 by young leaders drawn from 21 African countries.
- 2 - THE ASSOCIATION "Conscience Africaine was legalised in Cameroon under n° 471/RDDA/C19/BAPP.
- 3 - CONSTITUTION : Conscience Africaine is an International Non Governmental Organization based in Cameroon.
- 4 - AIM : Conscience Africaine aims at promoting a society of peace, democracy and development based on such fundamental values as the respect for Human Rights.
- 5 - OVERALL OBJECTIVES :
 - Dissemination of Human Rights, Democracy and Good Governance ;
 - Support the Democracy process, the promotion of research on democracy in Africa ;
 - Management of a Democratic Training program throughout the Continent ;
 - Search for Peace and the means for the peaceful resolution of conflicts in Africa ;
 - Organization of Forums for the eschange of experiences, Colloquiums, Seminars and Conferences ;
 - Setting up and Management of an African Observatory of Elections ;
 - Promotion of development in Africa ;
 - Setting up an information system on democracy ;
 - Sensitizing international opinion for a well planned support to the democratization of Africa.
- 6 - METHOD OF ACTION : Study - Counseling - Assistance - Training - Information - Action.
- 7 - STRUCTURES OF CONSCIENCE AFRICAINE :
 - The Convention, The Board of Directors, The Secretary General.Conscience Africaine also works with such specialized structures as :
 - * The Firm "Conscience Africaine CA" which is currently integrated into FUTUR'AFRIQUE.
 - * The Observatory "Conscience Africaine CA" which includes all election observers approved by "Conscience Africaine".
- 8 - SUBSIDIARY STRUCTURES :
 - a) - Conscience Africaine Observatory.

This department is exclusively in charge of election issues : training of election observers, voters education, support to the organization of elections, observation of elections, training of elected representatives.

All observers, members of "Conscience Africaine CA" are members of Conscience Africaine Observatory.
 - b) - Consulting firm (partner of FUTUR'AFRIQUE Consult).

This consulting firm is made up of experts of "Conscience Africaine CA".

 - 1) - The Cabinet carries out studies for any person or institution on request in the areas of democracy, peace, good governance and economic and social development.
 - 2) - The Consulting firm "Conscience Africaine CA" initiates, publishes and disseminates documents in the areas referred to above.

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