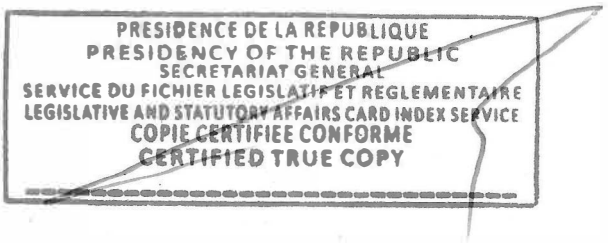
REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON

PEACE – WORK – FATHERLAND




**LAW No** 2020/010 **OF** 20 JUIL 2020

# TO REGULATE STATISTICAL ACTIVITY IN CAMEROON

***The Parliament deliberated and adopted, the President of the Republic hereby enacts the law set out below:***

PRESIDENCE DE LA REPUBLIQUE
PRESIDENCY OF THE REPUBLIC
SECRETARIAT GENERAL
SERVICE DU FICHIER LEGISLATIF ET REGLEMENTAIRE
LEGISLATIVE AND STATUTORY AFFAIRS CARD INDEX SERVICE
COPIE CERTIFIEE CONFORME
CERTIFIED TRUE COPY

## CHAPTER I
## GENERAL PROVISIONS

**SECTION 1:** This law regulates statistical activity in Cameroon.

It lays down the basic principles for producing official statistical data, rules of professional conduct, the institutional framework for statistical production and the terms and conditions for coordinating statistical activity.

**SECTION 2:** Within the meaning of this law, the following definitions shall apply:

**Statistical activity:** all tasks whereby statistical data or statistical information relating to gender, governance and economic, political, demographic, social and environmental phenomena, etc. are obtainable using a rigorous methodology;

**Data collection:** operation consisting in gathering required data using various collection methods and loading them in the appropriate storage medium;

**Statistical dissemination:** placing at the disposal of the public statistical data produced by the National Statistical Information System in all the forms authorized by the regulations in force and with due respect for the privacy of the natural and legal persons having provided the information used to produce such data;

**Individual data:** any information relating to an identified natural or legal person that can be identified directly or indirectly by reference to an identification code or to one or more elements specific thereto;

**Statistical data or statistics:** quantified information relating to the life of a Nation obtained through appropriate processing using statistical methods;

**Statistical information:** any organized quantitative and/or qualitative information obtained from statistical data;

**Microdata:** immediate results obtained from observing statistical characteristics and variables collected through an observation unit and that have not been processed statistically;

**Statistical production:** a process consisting in producing statistical information through the determination of needs, the design of collection methodology, data collection, data entry, data processing, the production of results, dissemination and archiving;

**Statistical secrecy:** measure helping to ensure that natural or legal persons providing information to be used for statistical purposes enjoy the respect for the confidentiality of information on their personal and family life, or commercial secrecy for businesses;

**Statistical service:** any statistical entity and/or body responsible for producing and disseminating public statistics at the national, regional and continental levels;

**Official statistics:** statistical data produced by services under the National Statistical Information System;

**Data processing:** operation consisting in cleansing data obtained from statistical and non-statistical sources alike in order to organize them in such a way as to have a clean file.

PRESIDENCE DE LA REPUBLIQUE
PRESIDENCY OF THE REPUBLIC
SECRETARIAT GENERAL
SERVICE DU FICHIER LEGISLATIF ET REGLEMENTAIRE
LEGISLATIVE AND STATUTORY AFFAIRS CARD INDEX SERVICE
COPIE CERTIFIEE CONFORME
CERTIFIED TRUE COPY

## CHAPTER II
## ORGANIZATION OF OFFICIAL STATISTICS PRODUCTION

**SECTION 3:** Official statistics shall be produced under programmes contained in the National Statistics Development Strategy.

**SECTION 4:** Any national or regional statistical survey requiring the collection of information from natural and legal persons shall be subject to obtaining a statistical visa issued under conditions laid down by order of the Minister in charge of statistics.

**SECTION 5:** Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 4 above, the internal statistical work of a government service not involving non-staff of such service shall not be subject to prior approval.

**SECTION 6:** (1) Official statistics producing services and bodies may, under their responsibility, entrust the collection, processing and analysis of specific information to private enterprises, bodies or establishments.

(2) The statistical data collection operations conducted within such framework shall be subject to prior approval.

**SECTION 7:** Entities responsible for producing statistics shall enjoy scientific independence and perform their functions in accordance with the fundamental principles of official statistics of the United Nations and the African Charter on Statistics.

**SECTION 8:** Official or public statistics must be produced in total transparency, objectivity and impartiality, and according to criteria allowing their practical use and making them available and accessible to all citizens, in accordance with the principles of the African Charter on Statistics.

**SECTION 9:** (1) Natural and legal persons subject to statistical data collection operations must be informed through appropriate means of the legal and institutional framework for statistical data production, in accordance with the fundamental principles of official statistics of the United Nations and the African Charter on Statistics.

(2) They must also be informed of the objectives of statistical surveys and censuses or other operations conducted, the purpose of data collected, data collection and processing methods, the mediums and schedule of dissemination of data collected as well as measures taken to ensure and guarantee the confidentiality and protection of individual information.

**SECTION 10:** (1) Access to official statistics shall be open and free for all users, subject to respect for the privacy of natural and legal persons whose information is used to prepare such statistics.

(2) The use of official statistics shall be free, provided the source is indicated.

**SECTION 11:** The integrity of official statistical data must be preserved.

Any manipulation for unlawful ends shall be prohibited.

PRESIDENCE DE LA REPUBLIQUE
PRESIDENCY OF THE REPUBLIC
SECRETARIAT GENERAL
SERVICE DU FICHIER LEGISLATIF ET REGLEMENTAIRE
LEGISLATIVE AND STATUTORY AFFAIRS CARD INDEX SERVICE
COPIE CERTIFIEE CONFORME
CERTIFIED TRUE COPY

## CHAPTER III
## INDIVIDUAL DATA PROTECTION

**SECTION 12:** Any natural or legal person involved in the conduct of any statistical data collection operation shall be bound by statistical secrecy.

**SECTION 13:** Individual data collected within the framework of statistical data collection operations may not be disclosed in any way whatsoever, unless explicitly authorized by the natural or legal persons concerned, in accordance with the principles of the African Charter on Statistics.

**SECTION 14:** (1) The nominative information relating to a natural or legal person entered in questionnaires during statistical data collection operations may not be used outside the services responsible for such statistical operations.

(2) Under no circumstances may the individual data collected be used for purposes other than those for which they were collected

(3) However, microdata concerning individual statistical units may, on the written authorization of the head of the official statistics service or body concerned, be disseminated in the form of an anonymous file for public use, in accordance with the conditions of use to be specified in the data transfer protocol.

(4) In any case, statistical data may not be used for the purposes of fiscal or criminal prosecution or repression.

## CHAPTER IV
## OBLIGATION OF RESPONDENTS IN STATISTICAL DATA COLLECTION OPERATIONS

**SECTION 15:** Natural or legal persons subject to statistical surveys and censuses shall be bound to respond accurately and within the time-limits set by the instruments instituting such operations, in accordance with the principles of the African Charter on Statistics.

**SECTION 16:** The legal persons called upon to place administrative files at the disposal of the relevant statistical services of the National Statistical

Information System for statistical exploration purposes shall be bound to provide such files to the said services within 15 (fifteen) days from the date of acknowledgement of receipt of the request submitted by the statistical service.

**SECTION 17:** (1) Where the natural or legal person subject to the statistics collection operations fails to respond or provides an inaccurate response, a report shall be drawn up. The same shall apply to legal persons that refused to provide their administrative files to statistical services to be exploited for statistical purposes.

(2) In the absence of an accurate and timely response, the competent authority of the statistical operation shall formally notify the defaulting natural or legal person by a registered letter with acknowledgement of receipt of an additional time-limit for a response. Such time limit may not exceed 10 (ten) days.

PRESIDENCE DE LA REPUBLIQUE
PRESIDENCY OF THE REPUBLIC
SECRETARIAT GENERAL
SERVICE DU FICHIER LEGISLATIF ET REGLEMENTAIRE
LEGISLATIVE AND STATUTORY AFFAIRS CARD INDEX SERVICE
COPIE CERTIFIEE CONFORME
CERTIFIED TRUE COPY

## CHAPTER V
## PENALTIES

**SECTION 18:** (1) Whoever violates statistical secrecy shall be liable to the penalties provided for in the Criminal Code regarding professional secrecy, without prejudice to administrative sanctions.

(2) In like manner, any natural or legal person that has received protected data and that violates the data transfer protocol shall be liable to a fine of from 100 000 (one hundred thousand) CFA francs to 1 000 000 (one million) CFA francs for a natural person and 0.01% of the turnover or wage bill for a legal person, without prejudice to other penalties provided for by the laws in force.

**SECTION 19:** Whoever refuses to participate in statistical surveys and censuses or makes false statements shall be liable to the following fines:

- between 10 000 CFA francs and 50 000 CFA francs for a natural person;
- 1% of the turnover of the previous year for a private company or 0.01% of the wage bill of the previous year for a legal entity with no turnover or a semi-public entity.

## CHAPTER VI
## NATIONAL STATISTICAL INFORMATION SYSTEM

**SECTION 20:** The National Statistical Information System shall comprise all the national public and semi-public services and bodies that produce, provide and disseminate statistical data.

**SECTION 21:** The National Statistical Information System shall be responsible for the collection, processing and dissemination of official statistical data for public purposes.

**SECTION 22:** The National Statistical Information System shall be financed by the State budget and various contributions.

## CHAPTER VII
## FINAL PROVISIONS

**SECTION 23:** The conditions for implementing this law shall, as and when necessary, be laid down by regulation.

**SECTION 24:** All previous provisions repugnant hereto, particularly those of Law No. 91/23 of 16 December 1991 relating to censuses and statistical surveys, are hereby repealed.

**SECTION 25:** This law shall be registered, published according to the procedure of urgency, and inserted in the Official Gazette in English and French./-

PRESIDENCE DE LA REPUBLIQUE
PRESIDENCY OF THE REPUBLIC
SECRETARIAT GENERAL
SERVICE DU FICHIER LEGISLATIF ET REGLEMENTAIRE
LEGISLATIVE AND STATUTORY AFFAIRS CARD INDEX SERVICE
COPIE CERTIFIEE CONFORME
CERTIFIED TRUE COPY

YAOUNDE, 2 0 JUIL 2020

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