

MISSION PERMANENTE
DE LA RÉPUBLIQUE DU CAMEROUN
AUPRÈS DES NATIONS-UNIES,
DE L'ORGANISATION MONDIALE DU COMMERCE
ET DES AUTRES
ORGANISATIONS INTERNATIONALES
GENÈVE



PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON
TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE, THE
WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION
AND TO OTHER
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
GENEVA

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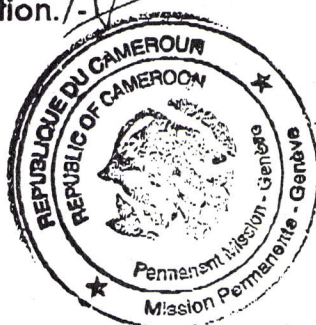
Genève, le 24 MARS 2010

La Mission Permanente de la République du Cameroun présente ses meilleurs compliments au Haut-Commissariat des Nations Unies aux Droits de l'Homme et, a l'honneur de lui soumettre sous ce pli, pour transmission à Mme Catarina de ALBUQUERQUE, Experte indépendante des Nations Unies sur l'accès à l'eau potable et à l'assainissement, la contribution du Cameroun à son questionnaire sur la participation du secteur privé dans l'approvisionnement en services d'eau et d'assainissement au Cameroun.

La Mission Permanente du Cameroun saisit cette occasion pour renouveler au Haut-Commissariat des Nations Unies aux Droits de l'Homme, les assurances de sa parfaite considération. /- /

Haut-Commissariat des Nations Unies
aux Droits de l'Homme
Palais Wilson,
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OHCHR REGISTRY

25 MARS 2010

Recipients : SPD
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ANNEX

At the moment, the policy of privatizing the water-supply sub-sector in Cameroon is being implemented at two levels such as:

- 1) Development of Water-supply infrastructures;
- 2) Exploitation of water-supply schemes.

The water-supply sub-sector, therefore, comprises of three principal actors: The State, Infrastructure and Exploitation partners. The role of each partner has been clearly spelt out as follows:

The State

The State is in charge of:

- ❖ Defining the general water policy;
- ❖ Ensuring good management of water resources and facilitating accessibility to all;
- ❖ Defining the consumption tariff;
- ❖ Arbitrating in the sub-sector;
- ❖ Guiding and working in collaboration with the local communities in putting in place water programs.

Infrastructure Partners

The partners for developing the water-supply infrastructures are responsible for:

- ❖ The planning, realization of the studies, execution of the works, search for financing and management of the finances throughout the execution of the works which include the water catchment, production, transport, storage and distribution of drinking water;
- ❖ The construction works, maintenance and management of the infrastructure;
- ❖ The control of the quality of exploitation;
- ❖ Informing and sensitizing the public institutions in areas of drinking and waste water management.

Exploitation Partners

The partners for the exploitation of water-supply infrastructures are in charge of:

- ❖ Exploitation and servicing of the infrastructures and related materials;
- ❖ Developing strategies to enhance connectivity to water-supply facilities;
- ❖ Replacing worn out exploitation materials and water meters;
- ❖ Sought for financing for the extension of water-supply networks.

SANITATION

In the sanitation sub-sector, not much has been done. A few master plans have been developed for towns like Yaoundé and Douala but they are still to be implemented. This sub-sector has remained underdeveloped due to lack of adequate financial resources.

However, as the search for financial assistance goes on, the government has continued to develop strategies while embarking on:

- Finalizing the elaboration of the National Master Plan for sanitation which will be implemented in collaboration with the local governments;
- The rehabilitation of the existing local water-supply facilities;
- The putting in place of low-cost techniques for sanitation;
- The establishment of a working framework for waste water management between the State and her partners in charge of distributing drinking water;
- The re-enforcement of measures for better revenue collection

RUGULATORY FRAMEWORK

The Government has taken some legislative measures to enhance the better functioning of the water-supply and sanitation sub-sectors. Here are the main texts:

1. Law N°98/005 of 14/04/1998 concerning Water Law;
2. Law N°2004/17 of 22/07/2004 spelling out the framework of decentralization of water management;
3. Law N°2004/18 of 22/07/2004 specifying the terms applicable to local communities;
4. Law N°96/12 of 05/09/1996 concerning the legal framework related to environmental management.

Some texts of application have also been drawn-up such as:

1. Decree N°2001/161/PM of 08/05/2001 creating and specifying the attributions and functioning of the National Water Committee;
2. Decree N°2001/162/PM of 08/05/2001 specifying the modalities of designating inspectors for water quality control;
3. Decree N°2001/163/PM of 08/05/2001 defining the protective zones around water catchments, treatment and storage plants;
4. Decree N°2001/164/PM of 08/05/2001 stating the modalities of sampling surface and ground water for industrial and commercial uses.

SUPPLEMENTARY MEASURES TAKEN TO ATTRACT PARTNERS

The Government has also taken some supplementary measures to attract investment partners, examples of such measures include:

- Reducing the water connection charges by 50% in 2006, this measure is aimed at increasing consumer connections and, by extension, expanding the consumer market for water;
- Putting in place exoneration policy of VAT for domestic consumers, this is commonly known as social consumption; this measure is also intended to increase per-capita consumption of water;
- Maintaining the State's involvement in capital investment in mostly urban and sub-urban areas.

In an effort to achieve the Millennium Development Goals for the water sector, the Government is currently putting in place a master plan called **Program for Integrated Water Resources Management** (code named **PANGIRE** - French acronym). This program is aimed at ameliorating water resources management as the Government moves ahead with the accomplishment of the existing national water-supply program.

It should be mentioned, on the side, that the Government has embarked on the decentralization of the public administration. In view of this new policy option, the State has decided to divulge the responsibility of water management and sanitation to the local governments. As a back-up to this policy, the Government has embarked on reinforcing capacity-building in the area of technical, financial and managerial skills at the level of local communities. This new policy drive is also aimed at encouraging Local government/Private partnership in the realization of water-supply and sanitation programs.