

THE ANGLOPHONE CRISIS IN CAMEROON WHAT GOVERNING STRUCTURE FOR THE COUNTRY?

The anglophone crisis in Cameroon has brought to focus the need for more local control of government activities. The banned Cameroon Anglophone Civil Society Consortium proposed a return to a two-state federation as a solution to many of the problems raised. Others have argued that an implementation of the 1996 constitution which calls for decentralization of administrative functions will be the right answer. What has not been addressed is the composition of an effective decentralization or that of federated states. Through the 20 questions below we attempt to shed some light on what each situation may look like.

TOP 20 QUESTIONS ON ADMINISTRATION IN CAMEROON	CAMEROON OF TODAY	«EFFECTIVE DECENTRALIZATION» AS CALLED FOR IN THE 1996 CONSTITUTION	FEDERATED STATES (2 STATES OR 10 STATES FEDERATION)
Will the National President be elected by the people (universal suffrage)?	Yes	Yes	Yes
Will Parliamentarians be elected by the people?	Yes	Yes	Yes
Will Governors be elected by the people?	No	No! Governors will not be elected. Though decentralized, the Central government will still constitutionally have sweeping powers over regional administrators	Yes
Will Mayors be elected by the people?	Yes	Yes	Yes

Will Government Delegates (appointed by the National President) remain in place?	Yes	Government Delegates may still be Appointed but have a supervisory role and not lord over elected officials	No
Will all citizens participate in the National Army?	Yes	Yes	Yes
Will all citizens participate in the National Gendarmerie?	Yes	Yes	Yes
Will the Police force be controlled LOCALLY	No	No	Yes
Will road maintenance and construction is done and controlled LOCALLY by regions?	No	The law says that the mission of local authorities is to promote economic, social, health, educative; cultural and sport development. In that sense, they have the competences to make construction but after the presentation of plan and budget. (Article 48 of the law N°2004/017 of july 22, 2004	Yes (Each region will be responsible for maintenance of regional roads and community roads. The central government will still be responsible for national highways
What is the legal system in the country	Predominantly Civil law, some common law in the English-speaking regions	Predominantly Civil law, some common law in the English-speaking regions	Civil law in the French-speaking regions; Common law in the English-speaking regions
Who controls the Pension services	Centralized in Yaounde (people have to go to Yaounde to fight for their pensions)	Maybe done locally	Will be done locally (pensions will be done locally in regions)

Will all citizens be eligible to participate in the National Football team?	Yes	Yes	Yes
Who sets up the education curriculum?	Centralized in Yaounde by the Ministries of Education	A finalized document be done at the Ministries, after consultations with Regional Authorities, having factored in the differences in the two sub-sections of Education (French and English)	National standards with local specifics
Who trains teachers ?	Only the central government. Training school over the country are found unMaroua, Bambili, Yaoundé. There are also technical school for teacher training	Central And Local: Regional Training Schools be established whose curriculum, staff and Administrative competence reflect the sub-system of Education.	Central and local levels
Who appoints the principals and teachers of government schools?	Currently all principals are appointed and transferred by the central Ministries	Central after Consultations with Regional Authorities	Regional school boards will be in-charge of hiring and firing principals and teachers
Who controls the national intelligence services?	Centrally in Yaounde	Centrally in Yaounde	Centrally in Yaounde
Who signs international treaties and partnerships?	Centralized in Yaounde	Centrally in Yaounde	Centrally in Yaounde
Who issues permits to open a new hospital in a town?	Yaounde only	Maybe done locally	Mayors of the involved towns while maintaining national standards

Who issues contracts for the tarring of new roads?	Only done in Yaounde	Some degree of road maintenance will be done at the local level e.g urban roads	Yaounde to issue contracts for national roads and the regions will issue contracts for regional and local roads
Can Cameroonians be arrested without an «Arrest Warrant»?	Happens all the time today: Though in Contravention to the Law.	Should not. It surely depends of penal and civil laws not on decentralization. The question is whether the government will respect them	May still happen in the French-speaking region with civil law but will not occur in English-speaking region with Common Law
What percent of revenue generated from a particular region will be transferred back to that region from the central/national treasury?	Currently only 2 percent	Maybe up to 20 percent	Maybe 50 percent

On Revenue sharing

Concerning the Cameroon Decentralization project per the 1996 constitution many things are not clear because President Paul Biya never passed a decree of application regarding the real format of decentralization as the World Bank says below leading to contradiction and confusion:

Challenges for participatory local governance

The World Bank states that Cameroon's "legal framework relating to decentralization is overlapping, cumbersome and contradictory, and in many respects open to different interpretations. The main difficulty is that decentralized functions are ill-defined and not distinct from 'deconcentrated' operations of the central government" (World Bank, 2012).

Despite strong decentralization legislation, Cameroon lacks an effective strategy and an operational plan for decentralization (World Bank, 2012).

A small budget of municipalities often leads to a lack of qualified staff resulting in obstacles to exercise tasks properly. This is especially the case if there is a lack of work organization or technical management teams (Desbrosses, 2014).

In 2008, constitutional amendments provided for an intermediary provincial/regional level of local government. However, this has not yet been realized (CLGF, 2013).

References

<https://localdemocracy.net/countries/africa/cameroon/>

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