

RÉPUBLIQUE DU CAMEROUN
Paix-Travail-Patrie

MINISTÈRE DE L'ENSEIGNEMENT SUPÉRIEUR

REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON
Peace-Work-Fatherland

MINISTRY OF HIGHER EDUCATION

**THE FIRST WORKING SESSION OF THE INTER-MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE IN
CHARGE OF EXAMINING AND PROPOSING SOLUTIONS TO PREOCCUPATIONS
RAISED BY TEACHERS' TRADE UNIONS**

PRESS RELEASE

On the invitation of its President, the Minister of Higher Education, Chancellor of Academic Orders, the Inter-Ministerial Committee in charge of examining and proposing solutions to preoccupations raised by Teachers' Trade Unions, created by Order of November 8 2016 of the Prime Minister, Head of Government, held its first session this Friday November 18, 2016 in room 1036 of the Ministry of Higher Education.

Present were:

The Minister of Secondary Education;
The Minister of Basic Education;
The Minister of Employment and Professional Training;
The Minister of Sports and Physical Education;
The Technical Adviser to the Prime Minister in charge of Education and Research;
The Charge de Mission at the General Secretariat of the Prime Minister's Office;
The Coordinator of the technical secretariat of the committee,
Members of the technical Secretariat of the committee;
The following Representatives of the teachers trade union;

- SYNICOMP (National Union of Contract and Parent Teachers)
- SYNES (National Union of Higher Education Teachers)
- SECA (Teachers Union of Cameroon for Africa)
- COHESODEC (Community Health and Social Development for Cameroon)
- SYPRES (Union of Research and Higher Education Personnel)
- SYNAEPCAM (National Trade union Entente for Contract Teachers in Cameroon)
- SNUIPEM (National Trade Union of Teachers of Teachers Training Colleges)

- ONEC (National Organisation of Cameroon Teachers)
- APCESPA (Association of Secondary Education Contract Teachers)
- CCSO (Coalition of Civil Society Organisation of Cameroon)

Close collaborators of the Minister of Higher Education.

The Agenda was made up of six points,

- Verification of quorum
- Opening remarks of the president
- Intervention of teachers syndicates;
- Examination of the preoccupations raised by Teachers Syndicate;
- Reading of Resolutions;
- Other Matters.

After thanking the members of the committee for their presence, and reminding them of the context of the creation of the committee, placed under his chairmanship, he proceeded with the verification of the quorum. Following a serious and profound examination of the points on the agenda, the committee examined the trade unions' preoccupations; the state of affairs and the specific recommendations to be addressed for the high appreciation of the Prime Minister, Head of Government. The following major points are worth bringing to the attention of the general public:

(I) Student Admission in Anglo-Saxon Type Universities.

In keeping with Article 1 (3) of the constitution, that promotes bilingualism, in the national territory, the unique admission condition for students in a school depends on the university, and on the conditions provided by the rules in force. Also, in order to facilitate the admission of Francophone students in the Anglo saxon type Universities and vice versa, the committee recommended to Rectors and Vice Chancellors, the putting in place language training programs for students in the two official languages.

(II) Anglophone Representation in the Teaching and Support Staff in the Universities of Buea and Bamenda.

On the basis of data available at the ministry of Higher education, the participants noticed in unanimity that owing to their administrative and financial autonomy, the Universities of Buea and Bamenda employ in priority teachers and support staff from the two Anglophone regions

(III) Respect of the Principle of Regional Equilibrium.

The committee invites the general public to the strict respect the constitution (which promotes the bilingual character of the state and national unity which imposes that the Higher Teachers Training College and the Higher Technical teachers Training College should not be reserved for Anglophones.

In order to increase the number of Anglophone candidates in certain fields, especially in Mathematics, participants recommended that emphasis should be placed on the diversification of teaching programs and the maximization of teachers training and the sensitization of secondary school students.

(IV) Duration and Certificates of the Technical and General Secondary Education of the English-speaking Subsystem

Participants recognized the necessity to apply the provisions of article 16 of Law number 98/004 of 14 April 1998 on the orientation of Education in Cameroon, that is a first cycle of 5 years and a second cycle of 2 years sanctioned by certificates of the English speaking subsystem.

(V) Transfer of Anglophones to Francophone Schools

On the basis of the provisions of the general statute of the Public Service, and in order to rationalize transfers, the implementation of a new transfer policy of graduates of Higher Teacher Training Colleges will come into effect with the current batch of students in order to correct former discrepancies.

In an effort to find solutions to these problems, whose pertinence is well acknowledged, the committee requests all the members of the national education community to continue to go about doing their jobs and to preserve a climate of peace and serenity at this crucial moment when the country is playing host to a sporting event of continental dimension.

Done in Yaoundé, 18 NOV 2016

The Minister of Higher Education;

The Minister of Secondary Education;

The Minister of Basic Education;

The Minister of Employment and Professional Training;

The Minister of Sports and Physical Education;

The Technical Adviser in the Prime Minister's Office;

The Coordinator of the technical secretariat of the committee,

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