

REPUBLIQUE DU CAMEROUN
Paix - Travail - Patrie

.....
SERVICES DU PREMIER MINISTRE

.....
SECRETARIAT GENERAL

.....
Comite Interministériel de Lutte Contre
la Culture du Cannabis

.....



REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON
Peace - Work - Fatherland

.....
PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE

.....
SECRETARIAT GENERAL

.....
Interministerial Committee of
Fighting Against Hards Drugs

.....

**PAPERS PRESENTED BY
MEMBERS OF THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT
OF THE INTER-MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE FOR
THE FIGHT AGAINST HARD DRUGS DURING
THE NORTH-WEST REGIONAL CCA**

KUMBO, 28 – 29 November 2016

REPUBLIQUE DU CAMEROUN
Paix – Travail – Patrie

SERVICES DU PREMIER MINISTRE

SECRETARIAT GENERAL

Comité Interministériel de Lutte contre la Culture
du Cannabis

REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON
Peace – Work – Fatherland

PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE

SECRETARIAT GENERAL

Interministerial Committee for the Fight
against Hard Drugs

**Papers presented by members of
the Technical Secretariat of the
Inter-ministerial Committee for
the Fight against Hard Drugs
during the North-West regional
CCA**

KUMBO, 28 – 29 November 2016

**INTRODUCTORY REMARKS BY THE
HEAD OF DELEGATION**

Mr. Litet Gabriel Francois

**(Chargé de Mission at the Secretariat
General of the Prime Minister's Office)**

The Governor,

Divisional Officers,

Judicial Authorities,

The Sub Divisional Officer,

Law Enforcement Authorities,

Authorities of Devolved Government Services, in your respective capacities,

Your Majesties,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Following the recurrence of the cultivation and repeated seizures of cannabis stocks in the West Region, and pursuant to the instructions of the President of the Republic, the Prime Minister, Head of Government, created by Decree No. 2014/3589/PM of 12 November 2014, an Interministerial Committee for the Fight against Hard Drugs, placed under his authority.

The primary mission of this Interministerial Committee is to develop Government's policy for the prevention and suppression of cannabis cultivation. The Committee's duties include, among others:

- Maintaining a record of statistics on cannabis cultivation;
- Conducting joint investigations with competent authorities to identify cannabis cultivators and traffickers, as well as their accomplices;
- Proposing measures to effectively combat the cultivation, consumption and marketing of cannabis.

Placed under the chairmanship of the Minister, SG/PM, the Committee is composed of MINATD, MINT, MINADER, MINFI, DGSN, SED-GN, DGRE, the Director General of Customs, the Director General of the Douala Port Authority, and the Director General of the Aviation Authority. In addition to these, the Committee works together with local authorities each time it makes field trips.

In order to successfully carry out its missions, an action plan comprising a number of field activities has been validated by the PM/HG.

Thus, in the execution of the said action plan, and on instructions of the SG/PM, as was the case last year in the West Region and with the youths of the National Civic Service for Participatory Development, the Technical Secretariat

was mandated to conduct activities to raise awareness and identify cannabis production, transit and marketing areas in the East and North-West regions. This instruction came after a visit to the Yaounde Central Prison less than a month ago.

Ultimately, this operation will be carried out in all the regions of the country where people indulge in such practices, to put an end to them. This will go a long way towards preserving the health of target populations, given the adverse effects of cannabis use and its corollary which is increased organized crime. It will also improve food security by preventing the use of lands dedicated to food and cash crops for cannabis cultivation.

It should be recalled that cannabis, also known as Indian hemp or “*Banga*”, is a plant which produces a substance called hashish or marijuana. It is consumed for its psychotropic or mind-altering properties, and prolonged use often causes addiction, or even mental disorders.

It differs from various other narcotics which do not fall under the jurisdiction of this Committee, as per instruction of the PRC.

However, despite its illegal nature, cannabis is produced in huge quantities and is highly trafficked.

In some Regions of the country, it is established that a greater majority of peasants obtain their revenue from cannabis and that the plantations seen there are just deceptive.

Following a survey carried out on the situation of drugs in Cameroon by the Research Centre on Economic and Survey Studies (CRETES), cannabis is the most known and most consumed drug by all classes of the population.

According to statistics, the West Region is the main area where it is cultivated with a percentage of 26%, followed by the North-West Region (17%), the East Region (15%) and the South Region (6%). While the Littoral and the South-West regions account for 41%, the West and the North-West regions (39%) are the main areas where cannabis is sold.

As you have surely noticed, it is a preoccupying situation and the role of our Committee is to echo the warning message of the Head of State and that of the Head of Government to target areas like the North-West and the East, ranked respectively 2nd with 17% and 3rd with 15%.

At the international level, the current legal and administrative framework to monitor narcotic drugs like this one, is found in three international conventions

negotiated under the auspices of the United Nations (UN), with Cameroon being a party. They include:

- *Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961, ratified by Cameroon on 15 January 1962;*
- *Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971, ratified by Cameroon on 5 June 1981;*
- *Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988, ratified by Cameroon on 28 October 1991.*

At the national level, the standard mechanism provides:

- Law No. 97/019 of 7 August 1997 on the control of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors and the extradition and legal assistance on narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances trafficking, and precursors;
- Setting up by Decree No. 92/456/PM of 24 November 1992, of the National Committee to Fight against Hard Drugs;
- Setting up by Decree No. 2014/3589/PM of 12 November 2014, of an Interministerial Committee to Fight against the Cultivation of Cannabis.

It is worth noting that beyond the sensitization instruments listed above, the following actions have been laid down in perspective by the Committee:

- Drafting the national policy to fight against the cultivation, marketing, transportation, and consumption of cannabis, whose first draft is being finalized;
- Setting up mechanisms to incite denunciations and the arrest of citizens who engage in cultivating, trafficking, and marketing of cannabis;
- Reinforcing measures to sensitize educated and uneducated youths;
- Revising national laws on the cultivation, transportation, marketing, and consumption of cannabis, and making the punishment incurred tougher;
- Reinforcing surveillance equipment in seaports, airports, and sensitive check-points, with advanced equipment;
- Promoting and popularizing alternative crops;
- Setting up addictology centres in target regions;
- Continuing negotiations with the International Airport Control and Safety Services Company (SICASS) to set up technical police dog teams in some State structures in our country.

Against this backdrop, the task is huge and it is our duty to pass on this message at the base. More so, we must invite competent actors on the matter to severely suppress any behaviour that suggests the promotion of any cannabis-related activity.

The delegation accompanying me, which needs the contribution and support of regional authorities, is made up amongst others of:

- Mr. Awono Pascal Magloire, representative of MINHEALTH, Permanent Secretary of the National Committee for the Fight against Hard Drugs, who will discuss the socio-economic impact of cannabis cultivation, marketing and consumption;
- Sayep Raymond, Police Superintendent, representing the Police Superintendent Abena Armand, Sub Director for narcotics at the Directorate of the Judicial Police at DGSN, who will discuss the process to suppress the cultivation, marketing, and consumption of cannabis;
- Bikele Noah Lambert, Magistrate/Assistant Research Officer at MINJUSTICE, who will discuss the national law on the fight against the cultivation, marketing and consumption of cannabis;
- Mbili Oloume, General Agricultural Engineer/MINADER, will discuss alternative crops for cannabis.

Thank you for your kind attention. /-