

tatives shall be referred for examination before they are debated on the floor of the House.

(2) The number, procedure for election and manner of functioning of such committees shall be fixed by the rules of procedure of the House.

Article 8. — The president and vice-president of the House of Assembly, the committee chairmen and the chairmen of groups and groupings shall constitute the council of presiding officers, the competence and procedure of which shall be fixed by the present law and the rules of the Houses.

Article 9. — (1) Ordinary sessions shall be summoned by the President of the House of Assembly at a date fixed by the steering committee, after consultation with the Prime Minister.

(2) Extraordinary sessions shall be summoned by the President of the House of Assembly at a time fixed by the steering committee after consultation with the Prime Minister, when such session is requested by two thirds of the representatives,, or at a date fixed by the President of the Republic or the Prime Minister when such session is requested by the latter.

(3) The closing of ordinary and extraordinary sessions shall be fixed by the steering committee after consultation with the Prime Minister.

PART II

The Government

Article 10. — (1) The Government of East Cameroon shall ensure the direction and management of the affairs of the Federated State within the limits of the powers conferred upon it by the Federal Constitution.

(2) The Government shall consist of the Prime Minister and Secretaries of State who shall form the "Executive Council."

Article 11. — (1) Upon the renewal of each legislature, the President of the Republic shall, after customary consultation, designate the Prime Minister.

(2) The Prime Minister shall submit his programme to the House of Assembly and shall be invested by a simple majority in open vote before he is appointed by decree of the President of the Republic.

(3) After his appointment, the Prime Minister shall propose Secretaries of State to the President of the Republic for appointment.

Article 12. — (1) The Prime Minister shall ensure the execution of laws and regulations and shall exercise the power to make rules and regulations within the executive council.

(2) The Prime Minister shall make appointments to all the civil offices of the Federated State and shall supervise the administration of the latter.

(3) Enactments of the Prime Minister shall be countersigned by the Secretaries of State concerned within the limits of their powers.

(4) The following matters shall be compulsorily referred to the Executive Council:

- decisions concerning the general policy of the Federated State;
- bills;
- rules and regulations;
- appointments to high offices in the Federated State, the list of which shall be fixed by decree in the Executive Council;
- proposals for the request of a second reading of federal laws by the National Assembly.

Article 13. — (1) The Prime Minister may, by decree, delegate certain of his powers to a Secretary of State.

(2) In the case of vacancy for whatever reason, the President of the Republic may, pending the investiture of a new Prime Minister, designate one of the Secretaries of State to exercise the duties of the Prime Minister.

PART III

Relations between the House of Assembly and the Government

Section I

The Formulation of Laws

Article 14. — (1) Bills may be introduced either by the Prime Minister in Executive Council who shall present government bills or by representatives of the House of Assembly who shall present members' bills.

(2) Representatives of the House of Assembly and the Government shall have the right to make amendments.

(3) The Government may oppose any amendment which has not been referred beforehand to the appropriate committee.

Article 15. — (1) Bills or amendments introduced by the government or representatives, dealing with matters which are not within the jurisdiction of the Federated States as defined by article 38 of the Federal Constitution, shall be inadmissible.

(2) Bills or amendments introduced by the government or representatives which, if passed, would result in a reduction of public resources or an increase in public expenditure shall be inadmissible, unless offset by an equivalent reduction in other expenditure or the creation of new revenue of equal importance.

(3) The President of the Republic, the President of the House of Assembly or the Prime Minister may declare a bill to be inadmissible as soon as it has been tabled before the House or during its debate in committee or on the floor of the House.

(4) Where the admissibility of a bill is disputed, the Council of Presiding Officers shall rule whether the bill in question shall be retained on the programme of business or withdrawn. Where such a bill is adopted, the President

of the Republic may seek the remedy at law provided for by article 14 of the Federal Constitution.

Article 16. — (1) The programme of business of the House of Assembly shall be appointed by the Council of Presiding Officers.

(2) At the Government's request, bill of the government or representatives which it has accepted shall right be listed on the programme of business in priority.

(3) A member of the Government shall attend the meetings of the Council of Presiding Officers.

(4) The rules of procedure of the House shall make provision for a procedure of urgency. Such procedure shall be applied as of right, where the government so requests.

Article 17. — (1) The House of Assembly shall examine in committee, before debate on the floor of the House, any bill tabled before it by the government or representatives and shall fix the number, composition and competence of such committees.

(2) The Prime Minister and members of the Government shall have access to meetings of the committees.

Article 18. — The debate on bills on the floor of the House shall bear on the text presented by the Government. The debate on representatives' and resolutions shall bear on the text adopted by the appropriate committee.

Article 19. — (1) The State budget shall be voted each year in the form of a finance law which may only comprise provisions of a strictly financial nature and shall be introduced under the conditions to be defined by law.

(2) In pursuance of article 41 of the Federal Constitution, the finance bill may only be laid on the table of the House after the federal budget has been approved by the Federal Assembly.

(3) The budget may only be approved if it is actually balanced as between revenue and expenditure.

Article 20. — (1) The House of Assembly may authorize the Prime Minister over a given period of time and for specific purposes to promulgate decrees having the force of law within the executive council.

(2) Decrees promulgated under the preceding paragraph shall enter into force upon their publication. They shall be tabled before the House of Assembly with a view to ratification within a time-limit fixed by the law conferring such powers.

(3) Such decrees shall remain in force as long as the House has not refused to ratify them.

Section 2

Responsibility of the Government

Article 21. — Members of the Executive Council shall be jointly responsible

before the House of Assembly for the general policy of the Government and individually responsible for their personal acts.

Article 22. — (1) The question of confidence may only be raised by the Prime Minister after deliberation by the Executive Council, either upon a declaration of general policy or upon the vote of a bill.

(2) A vote of confidence may only be taken twenty-four hours after it has been referred to the House, and shall be by open vote.

(3) A vote of no-confidence in the Executive Council shall be passed by a simple majority.

(4) Where a vote of confidence is introduced during the vote of a text, such text shall be passed if confidence is not refused.

(5) A motion of censure shall be admissible where it is signed by at least twenty five members of the House of Assembly.

(6) The vote on a motion of censure shall be held under the same conditions and in the same manner as the vote of confidence.

(7) The motion of censure may only be passed by an absolute majority of the representatives of the House.

(8) Where a motion of censure is defeated, the representatives who have signed it may not introduce a second motion during the same session.

Article 23. — (1) A vote of a motion of no-confidence or censure shall entail the collective resignation of the Executive Council.

(2) In the case of dissolution of the House of Assembly by the President of the Republic under the conditions laid down by article 44 of the Federal Constitution, the Council in office shall offer its resignation as soon as the new House of Assembly meets.

Article 24. — (1) The Prime Minister shall be bound to furnish to the House of Assembly any explanation requested of him on his administration and activities.

(2) The procedure for inquiry and supervision by the House of Assembly with regard to Governmental activities shall be:

- written question;
- oral question;
- petition;
- interpellation;
- committees of enquiry.

Article 25. — (1) Ordinance No. 60-39 of the 16th April 1960 to establish the organic law governing the functioning of the public powers shall remain valid for all provisions which are not repugnant to the present law.

(2) The present law shall be implemented as a law of East Cameroon and published in the Official Gazette of the Federated State of East Cameroon.

Yaounde, the 1st November 1961.

Ahmadou AHIDJO.