

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
FOURTH LEGISLATIVE PERIOD
1989/1990 LEGISLATIVE YEAR
FIRST ORDINARY SESSION
(JUNE 1989)

REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON
Peace - Work - Fatherland.

L A W

to amend certain provisions of Law
No. 73/1 of 8 June 1973: Standing
Orders of the National Assembly.

At its plenary sitting held on Tuesday 4 July 1989,
the National Assembly deliberated and adopted Private Members'
Bill No. 11/PPL/AN set out as follows:

ARTICLE 1: Articles 3(3), 6(2 & 4); 14; 16; 20; 26(1 & 2); 27(1), 32(4), 39(4), 55, 56, 75, 76, 77 and 86 of Law No. 73/1 of 8 June 1973: Standing Orders of the National Assembly are hereby amended as follows:

ARTICLE 3(3) new

For this purpose, the returns of the returning committee, accompanied by documents in proof which must include a copy of birth certificate or affidavit in lieu thereof, and a certificate of non-conviction of each candidate declared to have been elected, transmitted by the Minister of Territorial Administration to the Secretary General of the National Assembly, shall be referred by the Provisional Bureau to the six thirty-member Boards for scrutiny.

(THE REST OF ARTICLE 3 SHALL REMAIN UNCHANGED).

ARTICLE 6(2 & 4) new

This Committee shall consist of the Chairmen and the Secretaries of the six Validation Boards.

After holding the enquiry called for by the plenary assembly, the committee of enquiry consisting of the Chairmen and Secretaries of the six Validation Boards shall submit its findings to the National Assembly within a fortnight. A final vote on validation shall then be taken.

(THE REST OF ARTICLE 6 SHALL REMAIN UNCHANGED).

...../..

ARTICLE 14 (new)

The President shall preside over meetings of the Bureau and at the Chairmen's Conference. He shall conduct the debates at Plenary meetings.

In the absence of the President or in the event of his inability to attend for any reason whatsoever, the Vice Presidents shall act in his stead, by order of precedence.

The Secretaries shall supervise the drafting of the minutes and shall read them out upon request. They shall take down the names of Members of Parliament who ask for the floor, supervise voting and count votes.

The Questors, under the direction of the Bureau, shall be responsible for controlling the administrative and financial services of the National Assembly.

...../..

ARTICLE 16 (new): Each year, after the election of the Permanent Bureau, the Assembly shall set up SIX General Committees each composed of thirty members for discussion of matters referred to them.

- (a) Committee on Constitutional Laws, Justice, Legislation and Standing Orders, Administration and Armed Forces: Constitution, Standing Orders, legal status of persons. Justice, national defence, local government,
- (b) Committee on Finance, Economic Affairs, Planning and Infrastructure: budget, fiscal system, taxation, external trade, planning, etc...
- (c) Foreign Affairs Committee: treaties, international conventions, etc...
- (d) Committee on Education, Information and Cultural and Social Affairs: elementary, secondary and higher education, mass education, culture, arts, information, Communication Youth, social welfare, recreational activities, etc...
- (e) Committee on Production, Town Planning, Building and domestic Trade: agriculture, stock farming, water, forestry, hunting, fisheries, public lands, rural engineering, civil engineering, town planning, housing, construction, tourism, etc...

...../..

(f) Committee on Resolutions and Petitions:

examination of draft resolutions, petitions,
internal activity of the National Assembly,
Inter-Parliamentary Relations of the Assembly, etc...

However, considering the importance of a bill in the political economic, social and cultural life of the nation, the Chairmen's Conference can decide to submit such bill for consideration by the whole House.

Proceedings of the Committee of the whole will be confined to general debate on whereas substantive debate and the final draft shall be left to the relevant General Committee.

The Bureau of the National Assembly shall preside over the debates of the Committee of the Whole. It shall receive proposed amendments to bills under consideration for onward transmission to Government.

The Assembly may set up an Ad Hoc Committee for specific purposes. The resolution to set up an Ad Hoc Committee shall also lay down the procedure for the appointment of its members.

Committees may set up Sub-Committees. Committees and Sub-Committees may meet validly only during sessions.

...../..

ARTICLE 20 (new):

- 1) Committees shall be convened at the behest of their Chairmen.
- 2) Members of the Assembly who do not belong to any General Committee may attend the meetings of such Committee with due authorization by the Chairman of the Committee.
- 3) Only Members of the Assembly appovated on a Committee may take the floor and Vote during Committee meetings.
- 4) Members of Government may attend Committee meetings when bills falling within the competence of their Ministries are being debated. In addition, they shall be heard upon their request. They may be accompanied and assisted by close collaborators.
- 5) The movers of prosals or amendments shall be invited to attend meetings of the Committee at which their text is being debated; they shall withdraw when a vote is being taken. The General Rapporteur of the Finance Committee shall be heard by any committee examining a specific budget submitted to it for an advisory opinion.

ARTICLE 26 (1 and 2)(new): Bills and draft resolutions submitted to the Assembly by the President of the Republic shall be tabled before the Bureau of the House for transmission to the Chairmen's Conference which shall refer them to the appropriate General Committee. The Assembly shall then be informed accordingly.

...../..

Private Members' Bills and resolutions initiated by Members of the Assembly shall be submitted in writing. They shall be forwarded to the President of the Assembly for onward transmission to the Chairmen's Conference which shall refer them to the relevant General Committee.

(THE REST OF ARTICLE 26 SHALL REMAIN UNCHANGED)

ARTICLE 27 (1) new:

RULES GOVERNING THE AGENDA

The agenda of the proceedings of the National Assembly shall be drawn up by the Chairmen's Conference consisting of:

- (a) The President of the National Assembly as Chairman;
- (b) The Members of the Bureau of the National Assembly;
- (c) The Chairmen of the Six General Committees;
- (d) The Chairmen of the Parliamentary Groups

(THE REST OF ARTICLE 27 SHALL REMAIN UNCHANGED).

ARTICLE 32(4) new:

Members of Government may be assisted by their close collaborators who, may only take the floor by authorisation of the Chairman of the Committee.

(THE REST OF ARTICLE 32 SHALL REMAIN UNCHANGED).

ARTICLE 39(3)(New)

No speaker may address the Assembly for more than fifteen minutes (THE REST OF ARTICLE 39 SHALL REMAIN UNCHANGED).

ARTICLE 55(New)

Questions that have been the subject of either an open or a secret ballot shall be deemed adopted only if carried by an absolute majority of members of the National Assembly. In the event of a tie, the proposal shall be deemed rejected.

ARTICLE 56 (New)

Members of the National Assembly may delegate voting powers in plenary sitting only in the following cases:

- (a) illness, accident, serious domestic reasons, acts of God or disturbances hindering ^{the} Member of Parliament from travelling;
- (b) Missions entrusted to the Member of Parliament by the Government or the National Assembly;
- (c) designation by the National Assembly to attend a meeting of an extra-parliamentary or international organisation,;
- (d) In the case of an extra-ordinary session, absence of the Member of Parliament from Camercon.

(THE REST OF ARTICLE 56 SHALL REMAIN UNCHANGED).

ARTICLE 75 (New)

The National Assembly shall enjoy administrative and financial autonomy. Its Services shall be placed under the high authority of the Bureau of the National Assembly and under the responsibility of the Secretary General, assisted by two Deputy Secretaries General appointed by Bureau Order.

The Secretary General of the National Assembly shall be responsible for Financial management. In that capacity he shall be appointed authorizing Officer for the National Assembly budget.

He shall be answerable to the Bureau for/execution of the the Assembly BUDget. The Bureau shall appoint a Controller General whose powers and attributions shall be prescribed by Bureau Order to oversee the implementation of the budget.

In his capacity as authorizing officer of the budget of the Assembly, the Secretary General may verify and determine creditors' claims only for services rendered.

Ascertainment of claims shall be effected as a matter of routine or at the request of the creditors on the strength of vouchers presented in the prescribed form.

ARTICLE 76 (New)

On the proposal of the Secretary General, the President of the National Assembly, in agreement with the Bureau, shall determine the detailed organisation of its Services. The Bureau shall determine the status of the Assembly Civil Servants who, in that capacity, shall be deemed civil servants of the State.

The Committee on Finance, Economic Affairs, Planning and Infrastructure, sitting as an Audit Committee, shall examine the Budget of the Assembly submitted to it by the Bureau as a draft budget drawn up by the Questors on the proposal of the Secretary General.

That budget shall be in two parts current expenditure and capital expenditure.

After the Committee on Finance, Economic Affairs, Planning and Infrastructure has voted the budget of the Assembly, it shall be included ipso facto in the general state budget.

It shall be endorsed by the Plenary Assembly when the general budget is being debated and voted.

The Committee on Finance, Economic Affairs, Planning and Infrastructure, sitting as an audit committee, shall audit the use of the vote allocated to the Assembly.

The annual administrative accounts prepared by the authorizing officer, the stores account by the storekeeper, the management accounts of the Accountant shall together with the estimates for the ensuing budgetary year be submitted to the committee on Finance, Economic Affairs, Planning, Infrastructure sitting as a Budgetary Audit Committee.

At the end of each financial year, the Committee reports on the mandate that has been entrusted to it by the Assembly.

ARTICLE 77 (new)

The ceremonial privileges which may be enjoyed by the President of the Assembly and the Members of the Bureau within Cameroon and those which may be enjoyed by the Members of Parliament in their Provinces shall be prescribed by decree.

Members of the National Assembly shall receive monthly a basic parliamentary emolument and a special allowance known as "Parliamentary Expense Allowance."

Civil Servants of all ranks elected to the Assembly and Members of Parliament appointed to a remunerated office in the public service or in a public corporation since their election, may concurrently draw the basic parliamentary allowance and the emoluments accruing to their office.

Where the salary of an official is lower than the basic parliamentary allowance, the Member shall earn such salary together with the parliamentary expense allowance, for the duration of his term. Where the salary is higher than the basic parliamentary emolument the Member shall be paid such salary together with the "Parliamentary Expense Allowance" by the Secretary General of the Assembly.

Whatever the case, civil servants shall retain their pension rights as though they had continued to draw their salary in full without interruption.

The salaries covered by the preceding paragraph, shall include for all officials, whether civil or military, the total amount of salaries and supplementary allowances of all kinds that are subject to deductions by the Treasury in respect of pensions and granted under the regulations governing officials on the active list, as well as the family supplement and family allowances, provided for by the legislation in force.

The Chairmen and Vice Chairmen of Committees shall draw a session allowance, the amount and conditions of payment of which shall be determined by the Bureau.

The whole of the basic Parliamentary Emolument shall be distrainable in total and taxable.

The special parliamentary expense allowance, the session allowance payable to the Chairmen and Vice Chairmen of Committees and, in the case of the Members of Bureau, the special duty or entertainment allowances may neither be distrainable nor taxable.

The basic parliamentary emoluments, the special parliamentary expense allowance and the special duty or entertainment allowance payable to the Members of the Bureau shall be paid monthly by the Secretary General of the National Assembly in his capacity as authorizing officer for the budget, in the same conditions as for payment of salaries and fringe benefits to civil servants.

Payment of the National Assembly expenditure shall be effected by an accountant appointed by Bureau Order.

On the proposal of the Secretary General, the Questors shall prepare the draft budget of the National Assembly for submission to the Bureau before it is examined and put to the vote by the Finance Committee sitting as a Budgetary Audit Committee, as provided for under Article 76.

They shall report upon this draft budget to the finance Committee.

The Questors shall control the finances of the National Assembly. For this purpose, the Accountant shall provide them with all necessary accounting records and vouchers they may need to carry out this control.

They may in the exercise of their duties, and, should the need arise, secure the services of or State Controller if the Bureau of the National Assembly so requests.

The practical terms and conditions for the implementation of the budget of the National Assembly shall be determined by Bureau Order.

ARTICLE 86 (new)

This Law, which shall be promulgated by emergency procedure, and published in the official gazette in English and French, shall be enforced as a Law of the Republic of Cameroon.

ARTICLE 2:

This Law shall be registered, promulgated by emergency procedure and published in the Official Gazette in English and French.

Yaounde 4 July 1989

FON A SHANG Lawrence
President of the National Assembly.