
DECREE No. 2021/347 OF 17 JUN 2021
to lay down conditions for the issuance of passports

THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC,

Mindful of the Constitution;

Mindful of Regulation No. 1/00-CEMAC-042-CM-04 of 21 July 2000 to institute and lay down conditions for issuing the CEMAC passport, as amended by Regulation No. 01/08-UEAC-042-CM-17 of 20 June 2008;

Mindful of Regulation No. 4/18/CEMAC-UMAC/COBAC of 21 December 2018 relating to payment services in CEMAC;

Mindful of Law No. 74/21 of 5 December 1974 relating to the repression of illegal emigration and immigration;

Mindful of Law No. 2010/12 of 21 December 2010 relating to cybersecurity and cybercriminality in Cameroon;

Mindful of Law No. 2010/13 of 21 December 2010 to regulate electronic communications in Cameroon;

Mindful of Law No. 2010/21 of 21 December 2010 on electronic commerce in Cameroon,

HEREBY DECREES AS FOLLOWS

PART I

GENERAL PROVISIONS

ARTICLE 1: This decree lays down conditions for the issuance of passports.

Article 2: (1) The passport shall be an official identification document issued to Cameroonian nationals for travel abroad.

(2) It shall be a machine-readable electronic biometric document with a chip embedded in its cover and compliant with the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) standard.

Article 3: There shall be three (3) types of passports:

- the ordinary passport, green in colour;
- the service passport, brown in colour; and
- the diplomatic passport, red in colour.



ARTICLE 4: (1) The passport shall be a 125-millimetre long and 88-millimetre wide document in the form of a booklet with two rounded ends and shall comprise a polycarbonate information page and 32 (thirty-two) visa pages numbered from 1 to 32.

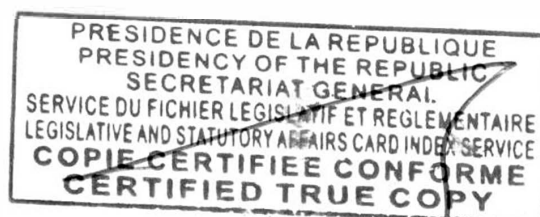
(2) Its front cover page shall bear the following information in gold letters:

- at the top of the page, "COMMUNAUTE ECONOMIQUE ET MONETAIRE DE L'AFRIQUE CENTRALE / ECONOMIC AND MONETARY COMMUNITY OF CENTRAL AFRICA" and "REPUBLIQUE DU CAMEROUN / REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON";
- in the middle of the page, the coat of arms of the Republic of Cameroon;
- at the bottom of the page, the ICAO logo identifying the passport as an electronic biometric passport followed by the caption "PASSEPORT", "PASSEPORT DE SERVICE" or "PASSEPORT DIPLOMATIQUE" in French and "PASSPORT", "SERVICE PASSPORT" or "DIPLOMATIC PASSPORT" in English. The ICAO logo and the name of the passport type shall be framed with aesthetic features based on a Cameroon traditional dress with continuous thin lines crossing the cover from the right edge to the left and from the left edge to the right.

(3) The front cover page shall also hold an embedded chip module and antenna, as well as an invisible print in wallpaper format of the depiction of the coat of arms and the letters "CMR".

(4) The inside front cover page comprising top and bottom frames with intricate and fine detail elements shall bear:

- a photograph of Unity Palace at the centre with the words REPUBLIQUE DU CAMEROUN and REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON above it;
- the map of the Republic of Cameroon offset to the left, followed by a list in the 5 (five) official languages of the Community. The list comprises the following information:
 - surname
 - given names
 - nationality
 - date of birth
 - sex
 - place of birth
 - date of issue
 - expiry date
 - place of issue



- occupation, duty post or grade
 - height
 - “Card Access Number” (CAN)
 - bearer’s signature.
- silk screen printing with special pigments allowing a colour change from magenta to green when the document is tilted;
 - elements printed with invisible ink, in particular the coat of arms of the Republic of Cameroon and stars which react to the green colour under ultra-violet light.

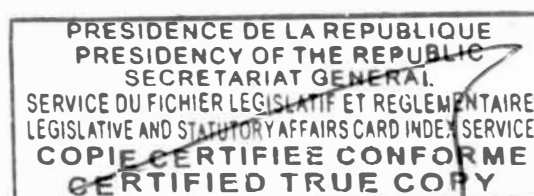
(5) The back of the information page with very complex shapes, micro texts and very thin lines shall bear the following information:

- at the top of the page, “Communauté Economique et Monétaire de l’Afrique Centrale” and “Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa” followed by the words “République du Cameroun / Republic of Cameroon” in French and English;
- in the middle of the page, the seal of the Republic of Cameroon;
- at the bottom of the page, “Passeport”, “Passeport de Service” or “Passeport Diplomatique” in French and “Passport”, “Service Passport” or “Diplomatic Passport” in English.

(6) The back of the information page shall also feature, in the background, intricate and fine detailed shapes with elements that are visible under ultraviolet light. The passport type, “PASSEPORT”, “PASSEPORT DE SERVICE” or “PASSEPORT DIPLOMATIQUE” in French and “PASSPORT”, “SERVICE PASSPORT” or “DIPLOMATIC PASSPORT” in English, shall be visible in red under ultraviolet light.

(7) The information page, with information written horizontally, shall be customized by laser engraving in various shades of grey and contain the bearer’s identification details. It shall bear a 30mm by 40mm photograph of the bearer and their magnified scanned ghost image on the right, above which shall be written “CMR”. It shall clearly display the following information in French and English:

- passport type
- country code
- passport number
- surname and given names
- nationality



- date and place of birth
- sex
- issue and expiry dates
- occupation, for the ordinary passport
- official title, duty post or grade, for the service and diplomatic passports
- height
- place of issue
- bearer's signature
- "Card Access Number" (CAN).

The information page shall have a visible background with a continuous colour change in rainbow offset and shall comprise:

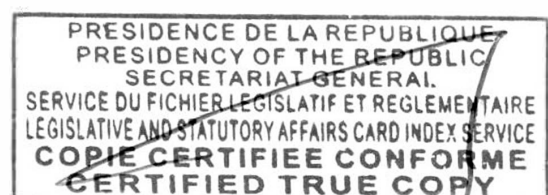
- very complex shapes, micro texts and very thin lines;
- a depiction of the Reunification Monument;
- the image of a lion surrounded by circles of small stars and the words "République du Cameroun / Republic of Cameroon" visible only under ultraviolet light and displaying a continuous colour change between red and yellow.

(8) In addition to the flag of the Republic of Cameroon, the information page shall also bear "Passeport", "Passeport de Service" or "Passeport Diplomatique" in French and "Passport", "Service Passport" or "Diplomatic Passport" in English in the upper left corner above the bearer's photograph.

This page shall be in polycarbonate and have an alphanumeric machine readable zone "MRZ" at its base. It shall bear the following additional security features:

- a variable transparent diffractive optical device embedded in the polycarbonate structure, partly above the bearer's portrait and biographical data;
- the ICAO electronic passport logo at the upper right corner, printed in variable ink;
- surface elements with complex and fine shapes prepared for tactile detection, and visible when viewed at acute angles.

(9) The visa pages shall be made of cotton and wood pulp paper without optical brightener. They shall comprise:



- an embedded security thread with the caption "REPUBLIQUE DU CAMEROUN" in French and "REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON" in English;
- a page number represented by an electrotpe watermark;
- a page number printed near the edge, which varies from one page to another, producing a "staircase" effect when all the pages are slightly open;
- the laser-perforated passport number printed with an impact creating a fingerprint effect;
- the coat of arms of the Republic of Cameroon in moulded filigree print with a continuous variation in transparency;
- a sewing thread woven between pages 16 and 17, consisting of green, red and yellow intertwined threads, with interlocking dots at the end which glow under the effect of ultraviolet light;
- a visible background with continuous colour change in rainbow offset, very complex shapes, micro texts and very thin lines, additional design features, as well as two images of a lion and the page number, visible only under ultraviolet light, red for odd visa pages and green for even visa pages.

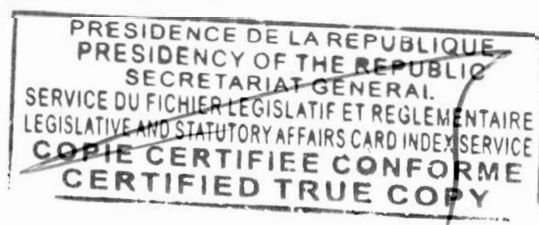
(10) Visa page 1, customized horizontally with an inkjet solution, shall be reserved for the bearer's signature, identity and portrait, as well as the identity, signature and stamp of the issuing officer.

(11) Pages 2 to 31 shall be reserved for visas in ordinary and service passports. Pages 2 to 32 shall be reserved for visas in the diplomatic passport.

(12) Pages 2 to 31 shall on a background of images depicting the history, culture and geography of Cameroon, namely Mount Cameroon, the Statue of New Liberty, Lobe Falls, chimpanzees, pygmies, the National Museum, the Reunification Monument, the Fiftieth Anniversary Monument, the Bana Chief's Palace, Lake Oku, the fantasia at the palace of the lamido of Ngaoundere, a hippopotamus, dome earthen huts, the Waza Park and Rhumsiki Mountain.

(13) Visa page 32 shall be printed in a visible background with continuous colour change in rainbow offset. It shall have very complex shapes and very thin lines, specific notes in English for ordinary and service passports as well as an invisible image of a lion, the page number and additional design features which react with a green colour under the effect of ultraviolet light.

(14) The inside back cover page shall bear a map of the Republic of Cameroon in the centre of a circle comprising several thin lines and a micro text, specific notes in French and English for the diplomatic passport and in French for



ordinary and service passports, intricate and fine detailed shapes forming a lower frame as well as silk-screen prints with special pigments that allow for colour change from magenta to green when the document is tilted.

The page shall also comprise features printed with invisible ink, namely the map of the Republic of Cameroon and stars, which react with a red colour under the effect of ultraviolet light.

ARTICLE 5: The validity of the passport shall be 5 (five) years.

ARTICLE 6: The passport shall be renewable even before the expiry of its validity period.

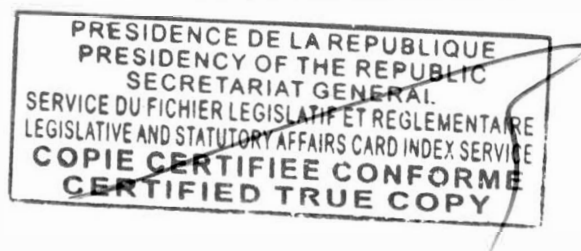
ARTICLE 7: A passport shall be denied:

- at the behest of the Legal Department, in the event of legal proceedings for felony or misdemeanour;
- for whoever has been sentenced by a court but has not yet served the sentence;
- for whoever is released on parole before the end of their sentence;
- for whoever owes the Treasury, where they are under requisition of the ministers in charge of finance, labour and social security; and
- in the event of a national security breach.

ARTICLE 8: The passport may be withdrawn from any holder who is involved in any of the cases referred to in Article 7 above.

ARTICLE 9: (1) The decision to deny or withdraw the passport, as provided for in Articles 7 and 8 above, shall fall within the remit of the Delegate General for National Security and the Minister of External Relations, as the case may be.

(2) The decision must be reasoned and served on the applicant or to the holder.



PART II
PASSPORT REGULATIONS

CHAPTER I
ORDINARY PASSPORT

ARTICLE 10: The ordinary passport shall be issued by the Delegate General for National Security.

ARTICLE 11: Issuance of an ordinary passport shall be subject to payment of stamp duties as fixed by law.

ARTICLE 12: (1) Any Cameroonian requesting for an ordinary passport must file an application to the Delegate General for National Security.

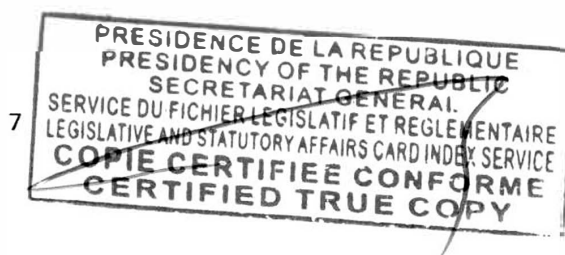
(2) Cameroonians residing abroad shall file the application with the heads of Cameroon's diplomatic missions or consular posts.

(3) The application shall be filed together with the following documents:

- a stamp duty payment receipt;
- a certified true copy of birth certificate;
- a certified true copy of the national identity card;
- evidence of professional activity, where applicable;
- a copy of residence permit, or any other document serving as such, for applicants residing abroad;
- a certified true copy of marriage certificate, for married women;
- a copy of the naturalization or reintegration decree, where applicable;
- a certificate of loss of passport, where applicable.

(4) An online registration must be made prior to submitting the application for an ordinary passport, save express waiver of the Delegate General for National Security.

ARTICLE 13: The application for passport for minor children shall be filed by one of the parents, the legal guardian or the holder of a duly legalized proxy letter. In addition to the items listed in Article 12(3) above, the application shall be backed by a certified true copy of the applicant's national identity card and, as the case may be, the legalized parental authorization by one of the parents, for the intended travel.



CHAPTER II

SERVICE PASSPORT

ARTICLE 14: A service passport shall be issued to any Cameroonian national not entitled to a diplomatic passport, but assigned to a permanent mission abroad, or who, in the exercise of his duties, is called upon to frequently carry out missions abroad on behalf of the Government.

ARTICLE 15: (1) The service passport shall be issued by the Delegate General for National Security, at the request of the competent authority.

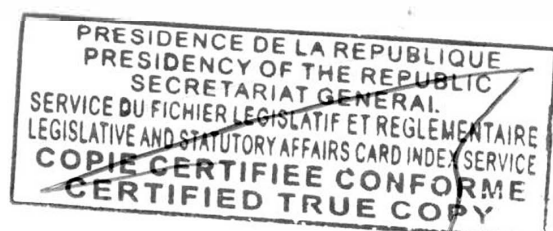
(2) The application shall be filed together with the following documents:

- a certified true copy of birth certificate;
- a certified true copy of national identity card;
- a copy of the mission order;
- a copy of the appointment or transfer instrument;
- a certified true copy of marriage certificate, for married women.

ARTICLE 16: The service passport shall be issued free of charge.

ARTICLE 17: The following persons shall be entitled to a service passport for their travel abroad or during their term of office:

- civil and military officials or State employees assigned to Cameroon's diplomatic missions and consular posts, as well as their spouses and minor and dependent children;
- secretaries-general of ministries;
- persons on a government mission abroad, as conferred by the President of the Republic;
- defence attachés and deputy defence attachés;
- military advisors and army, air force, navy and gendarmerie specialized attachés;
- diplomatic mission economic, cultural and financial advisors and their deputies, as well as their spouses and minor and dependent children;
- officials serving as foreign affairs attachés;
- diplomatic couriers;
- any other personality authorized by the President of the Republic.



ARTICLE 18: The following persons shall also be entitled to a service passport for official travel abroad and for the duration of their mission:

- civil and military officials, as well as State agents travelling for service purposes;
- Members of Parliament, save Senate and National Assembly Bureau members who are entitled to a diplomatic passport;
- managers of public establishments and enterprises, as well as their staff, up to the rank of Service Head;
- Cameroonians in world or regional international organizations holding positions from deputy director to the rank of service head, as well as their spouses and minor and dependent children;
- Cameroonians in sub-regional organizations holding positions from director up to the rank of service head, as well as their spouses and minor and dependent children.

CHAPTER III **DIPLOMATIC PASSPORT**

ARTICLE 19: (1) Diplomatic passports shall be issued by the Minister of External Relations, at the request of career diplomats or the competent authority, as applicable.

(2) The application shall be filed together with the following documents:

- a certified true copy of birth certificate;
- a certified true copy of national identity card;
- a copy of the appointment or absorption instrument;
- a certified true copy of marriage certificate, where applicable;
- a certified true copy of birth certificate, for minor children.

ARTICLE 20: The diplomatic passport shall be issued free of charge.

ARTICLE 21: The following personalities shall be entitled to a diplomatic passport for their travel abroad:

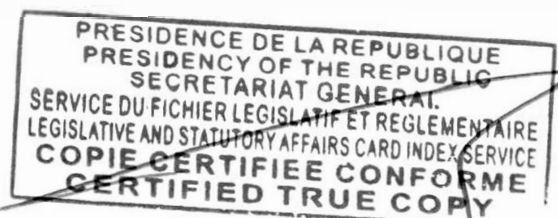
- the President of the Republic;
- the President of the Senate;
- the President of the National Assembly;



- the Prime Minister;
- the President of the Economic and Social Council;
- the First President of the Supreme Court;
- the President of the Constitutional Council;
- the Procureur General of the Supreme Court;
- former heads of State;
- Members of Government and persons ranking as such, during their term of office;
- former prime ministers;
- former ministers of external relations;
- Senate bureau members;
- National Assembly bureau members;
- presidents of regional councils;
- members of the Constitutional Council;
- officials of the Presidency of the Republic ranking at least as Attaché;
- officials of the Prime Minister's Office ranking at least as Attaché;
- generals during their period of activity;
- civil servants of the corps of diplomats;
- non-diplomat officials in service at the Ministry of External Relations ranking at least as director;
- Cameroonians holding the position of secretary-general, deputy secretary-general or director in world or regional international organizations;
- Cameroonians holding the position of secretary-general, deputy secretary-general or director in sub-regional organizations;
- embassy counsellors, secretaries and attachés under the Chancellery;
- any other personality authorized by the President of the Republic.

ARTICLE 22: The diplomatic passport shall also be issued to the spouses and minor and dependent children of the following:

- the President of the Republic;
- the President of the Senate;
- the President of the National Assembly;
- the Prime Minister;
- the President of the Economic and Social Council;
- the First President of the Supreme Court;



- the President of the Constitutional Council;
- the Procureur General of the Supreme Court;
- former heads of State;
- Members of Government and persons raking as such, during their term of office;
- Cameroonians holding the position of secretary-general, deputy secretary-general or director in world or regional international organizations;
- Cameroonians holding the position of secretary-general and deputy secretary-general in sub-regional organizations;
- civil servants of the corps of diplomats;
- embassy counsellors, secretaries and attachés under the Chancellery.

ARTICLE 23: The diplomatic passports of returning or retired personnel as well as those of their spouses and minor and dependent children shall be returned to the Ministry of External Relations, with the exception of:

- those with the dignity of Ambassador;
- civil servants of the corps of diplomats.

PART III

MISCELLANEOUS, TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS

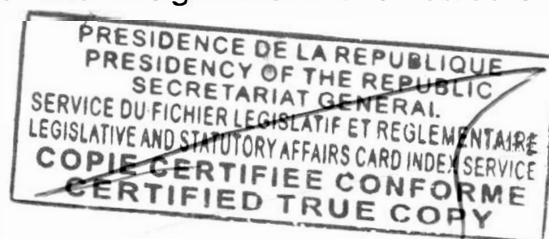
ARTICLE 24: Passports shall be valid for all countries, except as otherwise decided collectively or individually, as the case may be, by the Delegate General for National Security or the Minister of External Relations.

ARTICLE 25: The passport holder must report any loss or deterioration of a passport to the issuing authority.

ARTICLE 26: Any established fraud in the issuance and use of a passport shall subject the defaulter and his accomplices to the penalties provided for by the laws in in force.

ARTICLE 27: (1) The provisions of Decree No. 2013/2 of 4 January 2013, as amended and supplemented by Decree No. 2017/308 of 27 June 2017 to lay down conditions for the issuance of passports, are hereby repealed.

(2) However, passports in use at the date of signature of this decree shall remain valid until their expiry dates.



ARTICLE 28: The passports provided for by this decree shall enter into force on 1 July 2021.

ARTICLE 29: This decree shall be registered, published according to the procedure of urgency and inserted in the Official Gazette in English and French.

Yaounde, 17 JUIN 2021

