



2025/059 OF 28 FEB 2025
DECREE No. _____ OF _____
to lay down the features of and conditions for making
and issuing identification documents

THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC,

- Mindful of** the Constitution;
- Mindful of** the CEMAC Tax Treaty to harmonize registration fees, stamp duties and curatorship, together with the subsequent amendments thereto;
- Mindful of** Law No. 90/042 of 19 December 1990 to institute the national identity card;
- Mindful of** Law No. 97/012 of 10 January 1997 to lay down conditions of entry, stay and exit for aliens in Cameroon, as amended and supplemented by Law No. 2022/015 of 14 July 2022;
- Mindful of** Law No. 2005/006 of 27 July 2005 relating to the status of refugees in Cameroon;
- Mindful of** Law No. 2010/002 of 13 April 2010 relating to the protection and promotion of persons with disabilities;
- Mindful of** Law No. 2010/012 of 21 December 2010 relating to cybersecurity and cybercrime in Cameroon;
- Mindful of** Law No. 2010/013 of 21 December 2010 governing electronic communications in Cameroon;
- Mindful of** Law No. 2010/021 of 21 December 2010 governing e-commerce in Cameroon;
- Mindful of** Ordinance No. 2024/001 of 20 June 2024 to amend and supplement some provisions of Law No. 2023/019 of 19 December 2023: Finance Law of the Republic of Cameroon for the 2024 financial year;
- Mindful of** Decree No. 96/034 of 1 March 1996 to create a Delegation General for National Security,

HEREBY DECREES AS FOLLOWS:

CHAPTER I
GENERAL PROVISIONS

ARTICLE 1: This decree lays down the features of and conditions for making and issuing national identification documents.

ARTICLE 2: For the purposes of this decree and its subsequent implementing instruments, the following definitions shall apply:

Late application: Cameroonians applying for a national identity card for the first time after the age of 30 (thirty);

Enrollment: registration of the biometric and identity data of an identification document applicant.

Nationality fraud: foreign nationals applying for and being issued a national identity card;

Online pre-enrollment: paperless registration process, with an email address, to apply for an identification document by making an appointment at an enrollment or identification post after paying the corresponding stamp duty;

Identification document: an official document issued to any person of Cameroonian or foreign nationality, providing proof of identity, legal residence or social status, as the case may be;

Request validation: automated identification document application processing, which involves verifying and approving the authenticity of biometric and identity data after the physical enrollment of an applicant.

ARTICLE 3: (1) Identification documents shall include:

- national identity card;
- residence permit;
- residence card;
- refugee card;
- national disability card.



(2) Notwithstanding the items referred to in (1) above, the President of the Republic may institute other identification documents.

ARTICLE 4: (1) The national identity card shall be an official document certifying the identity of any Cameroonian national until proven otherwise.

(2) The residence permit shall be an identification document issued to aliens legally allowed to reside in Cameroon.

(3) The residence card shall be an identification document issued to aliens, granting them permanent residency status in Cameroon.

(4) The refugee card shall be an official document issued to all aliens who have been granted asylum.

(5) The national disability card shall be an official document issued to persons with disabilities, presenting a potential permanent disability rate equal to or greater than 50%.



ARTICLE 5: (1) The national identity card, residence permit, permanent residence permit and the refugee card shall be issued by the Delegate General for National Security.

(2) The national disability card shall be issued by the minister in charge of persons with disabilities.

CHAPTER II **NATIONAL IDENTITY CARD**

I -FEATURES OF THE NATIONAL IDENTITY CARD

ARTICLE 6: (1) The national identity card shall be a secure polycarbonate document, produced on a pre-printed green background, following the International Civil Aviation Organization standard Doc 9303, 8th Edition, in the September 2023 computerized, biometric and machine-readable TD1 format, version 1.31, with a VDS QR code.

(2) The card shall have a machine-readable zone. Its size shall be determined by the ISO/IEC 7810 standard in the ID-1 format of 85.60 mm x 53.98 mm x 0.76 mm.

ARTICLE 7: The national identity card shall bear the following information in English and French:

a) On the front:

- vertically, on the left side of the card:
 - Cameroon's international ISO 3166 ALPHA-3 code "CMR";
 - the words "REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON";
 - the Cameroon flag at the top left corner;
 - the words "NATIONAL IDENTITY CARD";
 - a microtext.
- the Coat of Arms of the Republic centred at the bottom;
- a metallized representation of the Cameroon map at the top right corner of the Coat of Arms of the Republic;
- a metallized representation of the Cameroon flag at the top left corner of the Cameroon map;
- engraved area with multiple laser images at the bottom right corner;
- a portrait photograph;
- the card number below the photograph;
- surname(s);
- first name(s);



- sex;
- date of birth;
- card's expiry date;
- bearer's signature.

b) On the back

- VDS QR Code;
- father's full name;
- mother's full name;
- place of birth;
- occupation;
- height;
- card's issue date;
- unique identification number;
- MRZ strip;
- competent authority's signature.



II -CONDITIONS FOR MAKING AND ISSUING THE NATIONAL IDENTITY CARD

ARTICLE 8: (1) Possession and holding of a national identity card shall be compulsory throughout the territory of the Republic of Cameroon for all citizens aged 18 (eighteen) and above.

(2) However, persons under 18 (eighteen) may apply for a national identity card where necessary, as duly assessed by the Delegate General for National Security.

ARTICLE 9: (1) Any Cameroonian wishing to obtain a national identity card shall apply to the Delegate General for National Security.

(2) The application referred to in (1) above shall be made through a compulsory online pre-enrollment process, unless as expressly exempted by the Delegate General for National Security.

(3) The making of a national identity shall be subject to the payment of stamp duty, whose rate shall be fixed by the finance law.

ARTICLE 10: (1) The establishment of a national identity card shall begin with online pre-enrollment and payment of the stamp duty, followed by the applicant's physical enrollment at the enrollment or identification post of their choice.

(2) Physical enrollment shall be subject to the presentation of the required documents appended to the application for a national identity card.

ARTICLE 11: The following documents shall be attached to the application for a national identity card:

(a) First-time applicants:

- a certified copy of birth certificate, original birth certificate, a ruling supplementing the birth certificate or a family record book, signed by competent authorities, as appropriate;
- a certified copy of marriage certificate, for married women;
- proof of occupation, where applicable;
- a certificate of nationality signed by the President of the Court of First Instance of the place of issuance of the national identity card.

(b) Loss, theft or damage:

- a declaration of loss, theft or damage, issued by any National Security service, with the National Security-issued unique identification number, the applicant's full name, date and place of birth, parentage as well as the number and reference of the identification post that issued the lost, stolen or damaged national identity card;
- a photocopy of the damaged national identity card;
- a certified copy of birth certificate, original birth certificate, a ruling supplementing the birth certificate or a family record book, signed by competent authorities, as appropriate.

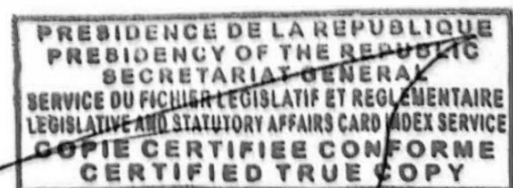
(c) Expiry:

- expired national identity card;
- a photocopy of marriage certificate, for married women;
- proof of occupation, where applicable;

(d) Name correction or change:

- a certified true copy of birth certificate, original birth certificate, a ruling supplementing the birth certificate or a family record book, signed by competent authorities, as appropriate;
- a certified true copy of the decree to authorize the name correction or change;
- a certified true copy of marriage certificate, for a married woman or the authenticated execution copy of divorce judgment or the spouse's death certificate, where applicable;
- proof of occupation, where applicable;

(e) Change of parentage:



- authenticated copy of the judgement that established the change of parentage;
- the previous national identity card;
- proof of occupation, where applicable;

(f) Reinstatement:

- a certified true copy of birth certificate, original birth certificate, a ruling supplementing the birth certificate or a family record book, signed by competent authorities, as appropriate;
- a certified true copy of the reinstatement decree;
- a certified true copy of marriage certificate, for married women;
- proof of occupation, where applicable;
- special certificate of non-conviction.

(g) Naturalized aliens:

- a certified true copy of birth certificate, original birth certificate, a ruling supplementing the birth certificate or a family record book, signed by competent authorities, as appropriate;
- a certified true copy of the naturalization decree;
- a certified true copy of marriage certificate, for married women;
- proof of occupation, where applicable;
- special certificate of non-conviction.

ARTICLE 12: (1) Where a national identity card applicant is unable to provide the documents referred to in Article 11(a) above, he/she shall back his/her application with a document to confirm his/her full name, parentage, age, Cameroonian nationality and place of origin (village, subdivision, division, region).

(2) The document referred to in (1) above shall be a civil status certificate issued by the Civil Status Registrar of the applicant's assumed place of birth, after a deposition before the head of the administrative unit, the local traditional ruler and 2 (two) witnesses who are members of the applicant's family.

(3) In the event of serious doubt about the applicant's age, he/she shall supplement the application with a medical-legal certificate of apparent age.

ARTICLE 13: (1) After the physical enrollment of the national identity card applicant, he/she shall be issued a provisional identification document, dated and signed by the head of the enrollment and identification post.

(2) The provisional identification document shall be generated in the form of a physical thermal print protected by the VDS-NC seal.



(3) The provisional identification document shall be a presumption of identity.

ARTICLE 14: (1) The national identity card shall be issued within 48 (forty-eight) hours of validation of the application.

(2) Under no circumstances may a duplicate national identity card be issued.

ARTICLE 15: (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of Article 14(1) referred to above, the national identity card may be issued in less than 48 (forty-eight) hours, for applicants in an emergency situation.

(2) With the exception of in-patients, the applicants referred to in (1) above shall be required to pay the additional costs provided for by the Finance Law.

ARTICLE 16: (1) The issuance of an applicant's national identity card may be suspended in the event of:

- suspicion of Cameroonian nationality fraud;
- late application.

(2) The suspension decision shall be issued by the Delegate General for National Security.

(3) The national identity card applicant shall be notified once the reason for the suspension is established.

ARTICLE 17: (1) Where the issuance of a national identity card is suspended, the applicant may submit a request to the Delegate General for National Security, together with all the information and documents attesting to their Cameroonian nationality or the reasons for the late submission of the application.

(2) The Delegate General for National Security shall have 3 (three) months to process the request and notify the applicant of his decision.

(3) While the request is being processed, the applicant shall use his/her provisional identification document for no more than six (06) months.

(4) Where the request is granted, the national identity card shall be issued within the deadline laid down in Article 14(1) referred to above.

ARTICLE 18: The national identity card shall be valid for 10 (ten) years.

CHAPTER III **RESIDENCE PERMIT**

I- FEATURES OF THE RESIDENCE PERMIT



ARTICLE 19: (1) The residence permit shall be a secure polycarbonate document with a pink pre-printed background and shall comply with the International Civil Aviation Organization standard, Doc 9303, 8th edition, in TD1 format 1.31 of September 2023. It shall be computerized, biometric, machine-readable and contain a VDS QR code.

(2) The residence permit shall have a machine-readable zone. Its dimensions shall be defined in accordance with ISO 7810 in the ID-1 format of 85.60 mm x 53.98 mm x 0.76 mm.

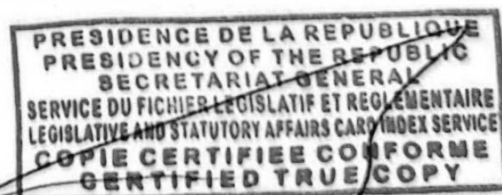
ARTICLE 20: The residence permit shall bear the following information in English and French:

(a) On the front:

- Vertically, on the left corner of the card:
 - Cameroon's international ISO 3166 ALPHA-3 code "CMR";
 - the words "REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON";
 - the Cameroon flag at the top left corner;
 - the words "RESIDENCE PERMIT";
 - a microtext;
- the coat of arms of the Republic centred at the bottom;
- the metallized representation of the Cameroon map at the top right corner of the Coat of Arms of the Republic;
- the metallized representation of the Cameroon flag at the top left corner of the Cameroon map;
- the engraved area with multiple laser images at the bottom right corner;
- the portrait photograph;
- the document number below the photograph;
- surname(s);
- first name(s);
- sex;
- date of birth;
- card's expiry date;
- bearer's signature.

(b) On the back:

- the VDS QR Code;
- nationality;



- occupation;
- height;
- date of issue;
- single identification number;
- MRZstrip;
- competent authority's signature.

II- RESIDENCE PERMITS ISSUANCE AND RENEWAL CONDITIONS

ARTICLE 21: Possession and holding of a residence permit shall be compulsory for all aliens legally resident in Cameroon.

ARTICLE 22: The procedure for establishing the residence permit shall be the same as that provided for by Articles 9 and 10 above for the national identity card.

ARTICLE 23: The establishment of a residence permit shall be subject to payment of stamp duty fixed by the Finance Law, without prejudice to the provisions of the Agreements and Conventions to which Cameroon is a party.

ARTICLE 24: The following documents shall be attached to the application for the establishment of a residence permit:

(a) For first-time applicants:

- a certified copy of a valid passport bearing a long-stay visa, no more than 3 (three) months;
- a certificate of residence issued by the territorially competent mayor or police officer-in-charge;
- a copy of a special criminal record;
- a valid tax compliance certificate;
- a justification for the purpose of stay.

(b) Loss, theft or damage:

- a declaration of loss, theft or damage signed by any National Security service;
- a photocopy of the damaged residence permit;
- a certificate of residence issued by the territorially competent mayor or police officer-in-charge;
- a special criminal record;
- a valid tax compliance certificate;
- a justification for the purpose of stay.

(c) Renewals:



- a certificate of residence issued by the territorially competent mayor or police officer-in-charge;
- a copy of the expired card;
- a copy of a special criminal record;
- a valid tax compliance certificate;
- a justification for the purpose of stay.

(2) Renewal of the residence permit shall be subject to presentation of justification for the purpose of stay and the previous residence permit, at least 1 (one) month before its expiry.

(3) After the physical enrollment of the residence permit applicant, a provisional identification document, dated and signed by the relevant Emi-immigration Officer-in-charge, shall be issued.

(4) The provisional identification document shall be generated in the form of a physical thermal print protected by the VDS-NC seal.

(5) Holding of a provisional identification document shall constitute a presumption of identity.

ARTICLE 25: The residence permit shall be issued within 48 (forty-eight) hours of validation of the application.

ARTICLE 26: The residence permit shall be valid for 2 (two) years, renewable twice.

CHAPTER IV **RESIDENCE CARD**

I- FEATURES OF THE RESIDENCE CARD

ARTICLE 27: (1) The residence card shall be a secure polycarbonate document with a pink pre-printed background and shall comply with the International Civil Aviation Organization standard, Doc 9303, 8th edition, in TD1 format 1.31 of September 2023. It shall be computerized, biometric, machine-readable and contain a VDS QR code.

(2) The residence card shall have a machine-readable zone. Its dimensions shall be defined in accordance with ISO 7810 in the ID-1 format of 85.60 mm x 53.98 mm x 0.76 mm.

ARTICLE 28: The residence card shall bear the following information in English and French:

(a) On the front:

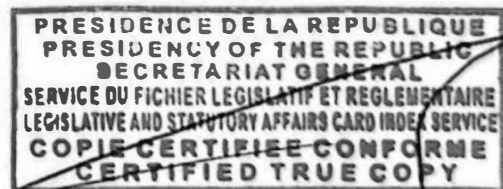
- vertically, at the left corner of the card:



- Cameroon's international ISO 3166 ALPHA-3 code "CMR";
- the words "REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON";
- the Cameroon flag at the top left corner;
- the words "RESIDENCE CARD";
- a microtext;
- the Coat of Arms of the Republic centred at the bottom;
- the metallized representation of the Cameroon map at the top right corner of the Coat of Arms of the Republic;
- the metallized representation of the Cameroon flag at the top left corner of the Cameroon map;
- the engraved area with multiple laser images at the bottom;
- the portrait photograph;
- the document number below the photograph;
- surname(s);
- first name(s);
- sex;
- date of birth;
- card expiry date;
- holder's signature.

(b) On the back

- VDS QR Code;
- nationality;
- occupation;
- height;
- card issue date;
- single identification number;
- MRZ strip;
- competent authority's signature.



II- CONDITIONS FOR MAKING AND ISSUING THE RESIDENCE CARD

ARTICLE 29: Possession and holding of a residence card shall be compulsory for all aliens admitted as residents in Cameroon.

ARTICLE 30: The procedure for establishing the residence card shall be the same as that provided for in Articles 9 and 10 above for the national identity card.

ARTICLE 31: Making of a residence card shall be subject to payment of stamp duty fixed by the Finance Law, without prejudice to the provisions of Agreements and Conventions to which Cameroon is a party.

ARTICLE 32: (1) The application for the establishment of or renewal of the residence card shall comprise the following:

(a) For an alien staying or authorized as resident:

- a residence permit renewed for the second time, or a residence card valid for at least 1 (one) month before expiry;
- a certified copy of a valid passport, no more than three months old;
- a certificate of residence issued by the territorially competent mayor or police officer-in-charge;
- a copy of the special criminal record;
- a valid tax compliance certificate.

(b) For members of religious congregations:

- document of recognition of the congregation;
- identification document testifying membership, duly signed by the head of the said congregation;
- certified copy, no more than 3 (three) months old, of a valid passport bearing a long-stay visa;
- a certificate of residence issued by the territorially competent mayor or police officer-in-charge;
- a copy of the special criminal record.

(c) For the spouse of an alien:

- a certified copy of the marriage certificate, no more than 3 (three) months old;
- a certified copy, no more than 3 (three) months old, of a valid passport bearing a long-stay visa;
- a certificate of residence issued by the territorially competent mayor or police officer-in-charge;
- a copy of the special criminal record;
- a valid tax compliance certificate.

(2) In the event of residence card loss, theft or damage, the following documents shall be attached to the application:

- a certificate of loss, theft or damage, signed by any National security service;
- a photocopy of the damaged residence card;
- a certificate of residence issued by the territorially competent mayor or police officer-in-charge;
- a copy of the special criminal record;
- a valid tax compliance certificate;
- justification for the purpose of residence.



ARTICLE 33: (1) After physical enrollment of the residence card applicant, a provisional identification document shall be issued, dated and signed by the Emi-Immigration police officer-in-charge at the enrollment centre.

(2) The provisional identification document shall be a document generated in the form of a physical thermal print protected by the VDS-NC seal.

(3) Possession of a provisional identification document shall constitute a presumption of identity.

ARTICLE 34:(1) The residence card shall be issued within 48(forty-eight) hours of validation of the application, following the approval of the minister in charge of foreign affairs.

(2) The approval of the minister in charge of foreign affairs referred to in (1) above shall be issued online, via the dedicated IT platform.

ARTICLE 35:The residence card shall be valid for 10 (ten) years.

CHAPTER V **REFUGEE CARD**

I- FEATURES OF THE REFUGEE CARD

ARTICLE 36:(1) The refugee card shall be a secure polycarbonate document, produced on a pre-printed grey background in accordance with International Civil Aviation Organization Doc 9303, 8th edition, in TD1 version 1.31 of September 2023. It shall be computerized, biometric, machine-readable and shall contain a VDS QR code.

(2) The refugee card shall have a machine-readable zone. Its dimensions shall be defined in accordance with ISO 7810 standard ID-1 format, 85.60 mm x 53.98 mm x 0.76 mm.

ARTICLE 37:The refugee card shall bear the following information in English and French:

(a) On the front

- vertically, at the left side of the card:
 - Cameroon's international ISO 3166 ALPHA-3 code "CMR";
 - the words "REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON";
 - the Cameroon flag at the top left corner;
 - the words "REFUGEE CARD";
 - a microtext.
- the Coat of Arms of the Republic centred at the bottom;
- a metallic representation of the Cameroon map at the top right side of the Coat of Arms of the Republic;



- a metallic representation of the Cameroon flag at the top left side of the Cameroon map;
- the engraved area with multiple laser images at the bottom right side;
- a portrait photograph;
- the document number below the photograph;
- surname(s);
- first name(s);
- sex;
- date of birth;
- card expiry date;
- cardholder's signature.

(b) On the front

- VDS QR Code;
- nationality;
- occupation;
- height;
- card issue date;
- single identification number;
- MRZ strip;
- competent authority's signature.



II - CONDITIONS FOR MAKING AND ISSUING THE REFUGEE CARD

ARTICLE 38: Possession and holding of the refugee card shall be compulsory for all aliens granted the right of asylum on Cameroonian territory.

ARTICLE 39: The making and renewal of refugee cards shall be subject to a special procedure laid down by separate instruments.

ARTICLE 40: The making and renewal of refugee cards shall be exempt from stamp duty.

ARTICLE 41: (1) The making of a refugee card shall be subject to presentation of the following documents:

- a card issued by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees;
- a refugee certificate issued by the minister in charge of foreign affairs.

(2) Renewal of the refugee card shall be subject to presentation of the following documents:

- the refugee certificate, at least 1 (one) month prior to expiry;

- the previous refugee card, at least one (01) month prior to expiry.

(3) After physical enrollment of the refugee card applicant, a provisional identification document shall be issued, dated and signed by the head of the enrollment centre.

(4) The provisional identification document shall be a document generated in the form of a physical thermal print protected by the VDS-NC seal.

(5) Possession of a provisional identification document shall constitute a presumption of identity.

ARTICLE 42: The refugee card shall be valid for 2 (two) years.

CHAPTER VI **NATIONAL DISABILITY CARD**

ARTICLE 43: The features of the national disability card, as well as the procedures for its establishment shall be laid down by order of the minister in charge of disabled persons.

CHAPTER VII **MISCELLANEOUS, TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS**

ARTICLE 44: (1) Holders of identification documents shall be required to present them whenever requested by the competent authorities.

(2) Identification documents shall be personal and non-transferable.

ARTICLE 45: (1) Identification documents shall be collected from the identification post where the applicant was enrolled, in return for the provisional identification document.

(2) Identification documents shall be collected within 12 (twelve) months of notification of collection.

ARTICLE 46: The holder of an identification document must report the loss, damage or theft thereof to the National Security services.

ARTICLE 47: The residence permit, residence card or refugee card may be refused any alien whose presence constitutes a threat to State security or public order.

ARTICLE 48: In case of final departure from Cameroon, the alien in residence or authorized to stay as a resident or refugee must hand over his residence permit, residence card or refugee card, as the case may be, at the time of issuance of his exit visa.

ARTICLE 49: Identification documents issued prior to the entry into force of this decree shall remain valid until they expire.



ARTICLE 50:(1) Identification documents not produced at the time of signature of this decree shall be produced and issued in the format of the new documents.

(2) The terms and conditions for issuing the documents referred to in (1) above shall, where necessary, be laid down by a separate instrument.

ARTICLE 51:The secure identification system for the Republic of Cameroon shall be implemented gradually.

ARTICLE 52: All previous provisions repugnant hereto, in particular those of Decree No.2016/375 of 4 August 2016 to lay down the characteristics and procedures for making and issuing the national identity card, together with Articles 37 to 45 of Decree No. 2023/147 of 2 March 2023 to lay down the conditions for implementing Law No. 97/012 of 10 January 1997 to lay down the conditions of entry, stay and exit for aliens in Cameroon, are hereby repealed.

ARTICLE 53: This decree shall be registered, published according to the procedure of urgency and inserted in the Official Gazette in English and French.

Yaounde, 28 FEB 2025



PAUL BIYA
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC