

*Cameroon*  
*2007 Legislative and Municipal Elections*  
*Building Integrity in Acquiring and Exercising Public Duty*



**REPORT OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL GOVERNANCE  
INSTITUTE-FOCAL INTEGRITY OBSERVER TEAM**

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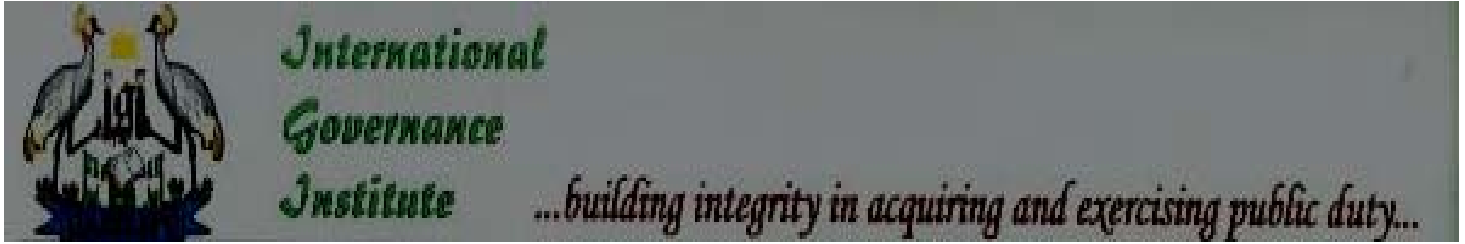
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## FOCAL INTEGRITY TEAM-CAMEROON

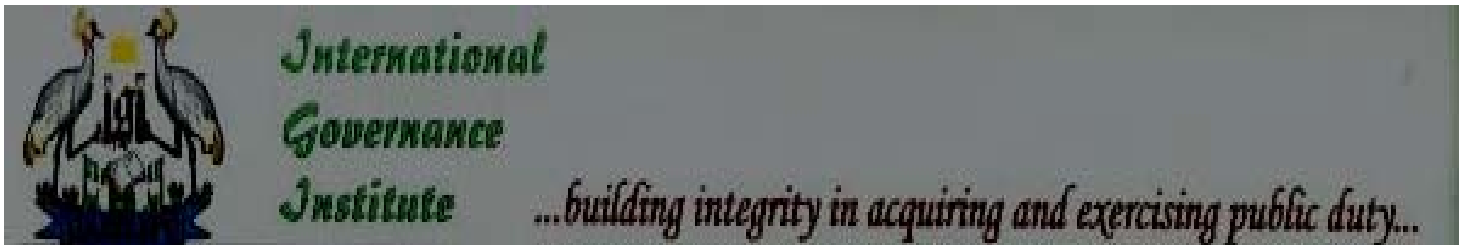


### **CHAPTER I**

### **THE ELECTORAL FRAMEWORK**

The legal framework governing Municipal and Legislative Elections in Cameroon consists of various amendments beginning with:

- I. Law No.91.020 of 16 December 1991 to lay down conditions governing the elections of members of parliament, amended by Law No.97-73 of 19 March 1997 and by Law No.2006/009 of 29 December 2006 .
- II. Law No.92/2 of 14 August 1992 to lay down conditions for the elections of Municipal Councilors and amended and supplemented by Law No. 2006/010 of 29 December 2006
- III Law No.2000-016of 19 December 2000 to set up a National Elections Observatory ( NEO) amended by Law No. 2003/015 of 22 December 2003



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### CHAPTER II

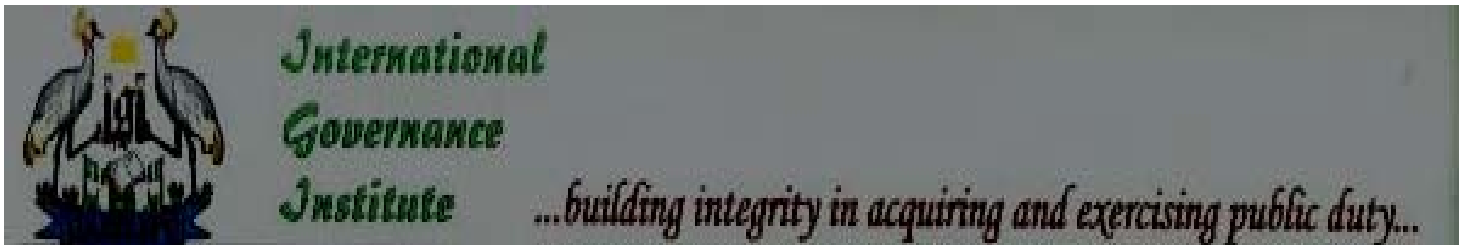
### THE ELECTORAL LAW

#### **Nomination of Candidates**

The law states that any candidate wishing to stand in a municipal election shall within 15 days from the convening of the electorate declare his/her candidature through a declaration bearing his/her authentic signature. Such a candidate may either be nominated or sponsored by a political party. Nomination papers are filed to the Senior Divisional Officer who will then forward such forthwith upon making observation thereon, within 2 days to MINATD. A copy of these papers must also be submitted to the Constitutional Council.

Responsibility for accepting or ruling on the admissibility or rejection of nomination papers rests with the Minister of Territorial Administration and Decentralization. The Minister also has the responsibility of drawing up and ensuring the publication of the lists of candidates within no less than 60 days before the date of the poll with the Constitutional Council notified forthwith. With the Constitutional Council not yet in place, it is possible that the time prescribed for the hearing of such petitions might not be adequate.

Consideration should therefore be given for the setting in place of the Constitutional Council, to determine the date of filing of nomination papers and petitions, with the power to give a ruling on appeals against the rejection or approval of a candidature as well as those pertaining to the color, acronym and /or symbol.



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### **Structures for the Management of Elections**

Ministry of Territorial Administration and Decentralization (MINATD)

The overall responsibility for organizing elections in Cameroon lies with MINATD. The machinery for the conduct of elections is therefore inseparable from the system of territorial administration. The electoral process is entrusted to Divisional and Sub Divisional Commissions and representatives of the Local Administration.

### **Electoral Commissions**

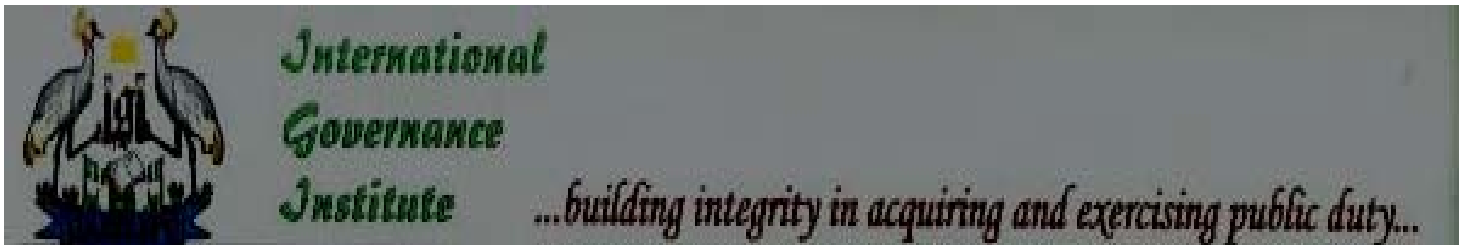
The electoral law provides for the following commissions which are charged with responsibility for various aspects of the electoral process:

- Commission charged with preparatory activities
- Local Polling Commissions
- Divisional Supervisory Commissions
- National Commission for the final counting of votes

The Commissions are chaired by a representative of the Administration, appointed by the Senior Divisional Officer, and include the Mayor or Deputy Mayor or Local Councilor appointed by the Mayor and a representative of each legally authorized political party.

In our discussions with representatives of political parties, we were told that often the administrative officials on the commissions were supporters of the ruling party, indicating significant influence by the ruling party in the affairs of the local Administration.

We also found out that the existence of so many varied electoral commissions led to an overlapping of mandates.



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### **National Elections Observatory ( NEO)**

The National Elections Observatory (NEO) is “an independent body charged with supervising and controlling elections and referendums”. It is required to monitor, to report, to “ensure compliance with the electoral law and to better promote a culture of accepting the verdict of the ballot box within political circles”. It has 11 members. According to the law, NEO should be adequately staffed and financed through the national budget.

### **Campaigning**

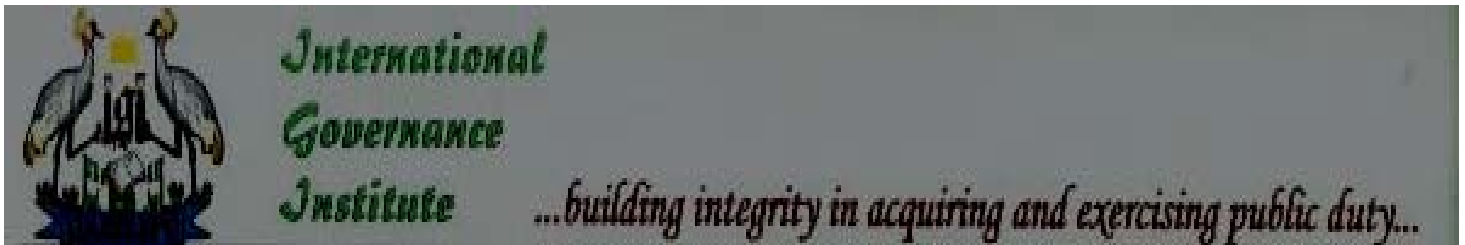
The law provides guidelines with regard to the printing of ballot papers. It states that for every candidate or list of candidate, there should be a number of ballot papers equivalent to the number of electors registered, increased by a quarter. Candidates may prepare at their own expense, or that of the parties representing their candidates, manifestoes or posters. These must be in the colors chosen by the candidate or the party and should bear the initials selected for the printing of the ballot papers. The Minister of Territorial Administration and Decentralization is legally charged with vetting and approving such documents. The law equally requires that every candidate should be allocated an equal amount of space for the display of posters and other canvassing material near every polling station, sub divisional, district and council offices.

### **OBSERVATIONS**

We noted the following:

That there is a lack of a clear distinction between the administration and the election managers;

That although ELECAM is charged with supervising and controlling elections, ELECAM is in existence only on papers. Also, NEO’s lack of enforcement powers means that it is only an observer rather than a controller.



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That Cameroon needs an independent electoral institution laid down by law, perennially operating to ensure integrity throughout the electoral process; and not a temporary structure set up prior to election time.

That there is in essence a code of conduct for the polls but none for political parties, the media and the civil service.

Excessive flexibility and inconsistency in the interpretation and application of electoral laws by members of the local polling station resulting to irregularities in the conduct of the elections.

The Team witnessed also that there have been some changes in the electoral law prior to the elections.

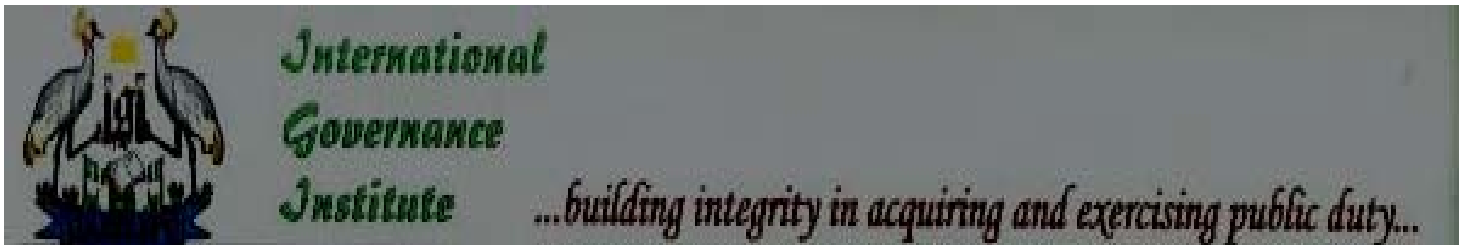
The overlapping of mandates of various commissions gave rise to ambiguity as to where the powers of one commission started and ended.

Finally, the Team believes that the election officials be duly trained to perform their tasks.

### **OVERALL APPRAISAL**

There appears to be two main challenges with regard to the legal framework. The law as it stands out is not applied evenly and rigorously. Added to this, the law is generally not explicit in its division of the “separation of powers”. This overall weakness or loophole in the legal framework makes the electoral system defenseless to abuse, and has led to a lack of confidence both by the electorate and political parties in the electoral process.

If democracy is to be strengthened in Cameroon, clear and consistent guidelines for the application of the law should be established which should be made available to political parties, the media and the public as a whole.



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### **CHAPTER III**

#### **PREPARATIONS FOR THE ELECTION**

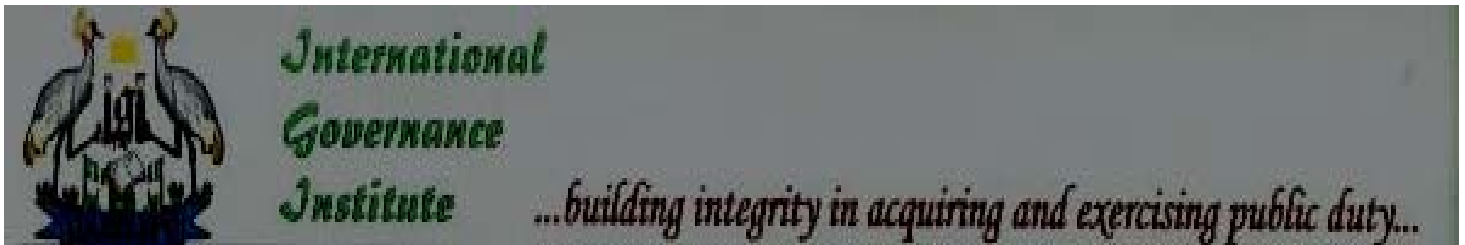
##### **REGISTRATION OF VOTERS**

A capable, credible and transparent registration procedure is at the very center of a democratic process. It guarantees that all citizens who are eligible to vote have been afforded the opportunity to register, can verify their names on the register, and know at which location they will vote. The process should be technically capable, conducted free from the influence of executive authorities, and have the confidence of all stakeholders. If the registration process is fundamentally defective, it undermines the entire electoral process.

##### ***Registration Process***

The registration of voters is continuous throughout the year in Cameroon as laid down by the constitution. With respect to the *2007 Legislative and Municipal Elections*, the registration of voters was scheduled to commence on *1 January 2006*. In practice, efforts to conduct registration activities did not begin in real earnest until *March* of this year. However, the exercise became most intense in *May* as opposed to the previous years where the operations became most intense just before the convening of the electorate.

In addition, as recommended by previous observers (Order No.000014/0/MINATD/DAJC), the Cameroonian authorities instituted a “full recompilation of the Voters Registers”. It was indicated to the Team by other observers that, despite the recompilation order, old voters’ registers were used during the July -2007 Legislative and Municipal Elections.



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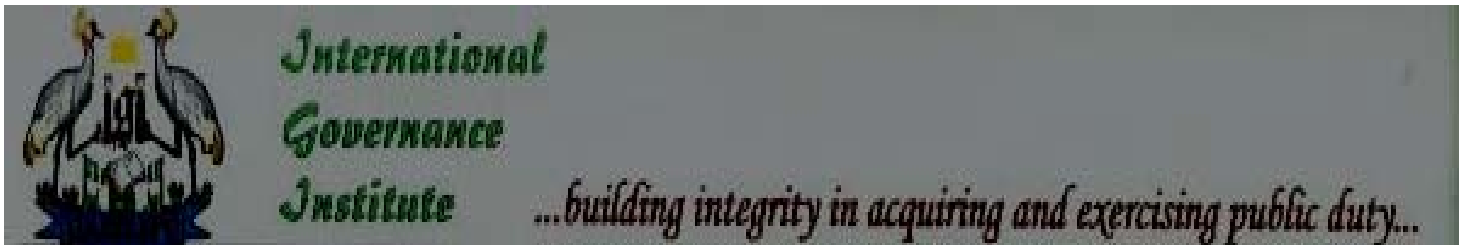
On another note, our Team made several visits to MINATD Offices in the South West Province and realized that members of the voter registration commissions were conspicuously absent for the registration exercise during the later days of the registration process, so much so that a handful of people who came to register left without actually doing soon.

Further more, contrary to Sec. 54(2) which provides that the Revision Commission shall expunge from the register, the names of deceased persons, our Team noticed that there were still evidence of names of persons who had died. Also those who were alive and willing to vote could not vote because their cards were not available.

### ***Display of the Register and the Claims and Objection Process***

It is often considered good practice to display the voters register weeks or months prior to the polling day. This is because it provides the opportunity for the voters to ensure that their names are on the register, or can take action if it turns out that their names are missing on the voters' list. Copies of the register is also made available to political parties well in advance, so that they can ensure that their supporters are registered and help to ensure that the list is accurate.

Before this election, there was a lengthy period of 2 months in which the register could be consulted at the local administrative offices. However, the manner in which the boards bearing the names were arranged for public view lacked chronology, making it difficult for some of the people who had registered to find where exactly their names had been published or entered on the list. The opposition parties claim that the failure to conduct a proper display put them at the disadvantage, because it limited the opportunities for their supporters to check and if necessary contest the register.



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### *Number of Voters Registered*

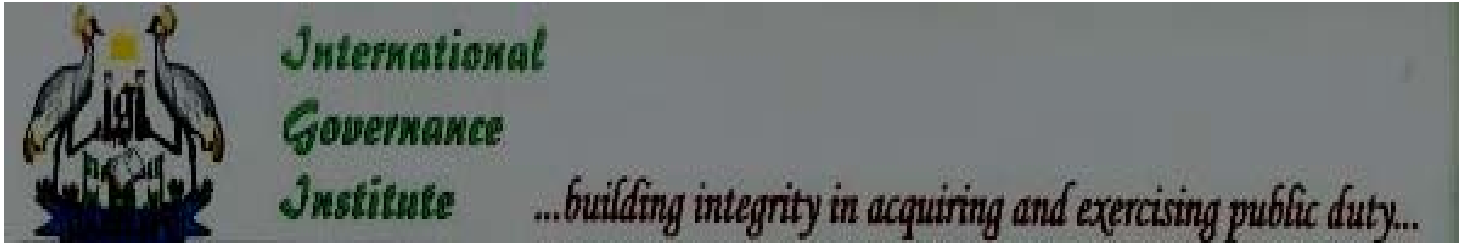
MINATD told the Team that 8 million voters were on the register for the Municipal and Legislative Elections whereas not up to 6 million went to the polls. For example, in some polling stations not up to half the number of registered voters actually voted. Many argue that the number registered is far below the number that might be expected. This argument is buttressed by the huge number of voters card that were found in many polling stations after the election exercise- unused. It is therefore likely that the figures given by MINATD did not reflect the actual number of electors registered.

Likewise, during its extraordinary assembly, NEO president *François Xavier Mbouyom* disclosed that he could not find his name on the “computerized voter’s list” despite the fact that he registered in the preceding election. The Team will like to emphasize the need to ensure that the Joint Commissions entrusted with the registration of new voters and update of the computerized voter registers operate efficiently, and also consider the petitions from electorates relating to difficulties encountered in registering and revising the electoral register.

### *Voters Registration Commissions*

Voters’ registration was conducted in earnest in March 2007. From the start, the Administration had considerable influence in the registration commissions, and the ruling party dominated. In most places, the Administration officials took over the work of the commissions. In some, registration was handed outright to “Quarter heads” and traditional leaders. Also, many of the commissions did not have adequate financial and logistical resources. As a result, in some places, registration was only possible for a few hours in a given month.

There was a distinct lack of consistency in the application of registration procedure throughout the country. Some of the political parties attest that a considerable number of individuals identified to be militants of the ruling party got registered without the right procedure being followed (*ambulance registration*).



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Until the later days of registration, there were no national procedural guidelines or manuals to conduct elections beyond the electoral code itself, which was often interpreted in contradictory ways. Similarly, training appeared to be done on an ad hoc basis, derived simply from directions from officers of the administration itself.

### ***Objectivity of the Administration and Traditional Leaders***

Voter registration often took place at the premises of traditional leaders (chiefs, “Quarter heads” and Lamidos). Such leaders exert significant authority and are often openly aligned with one of the political parties. Traditional leaders are themselves vulnerable to influence by the Government. Our Team was told that the location of registration centers at the premises of these leaders dissuaded many people, particularly youths, from registering.

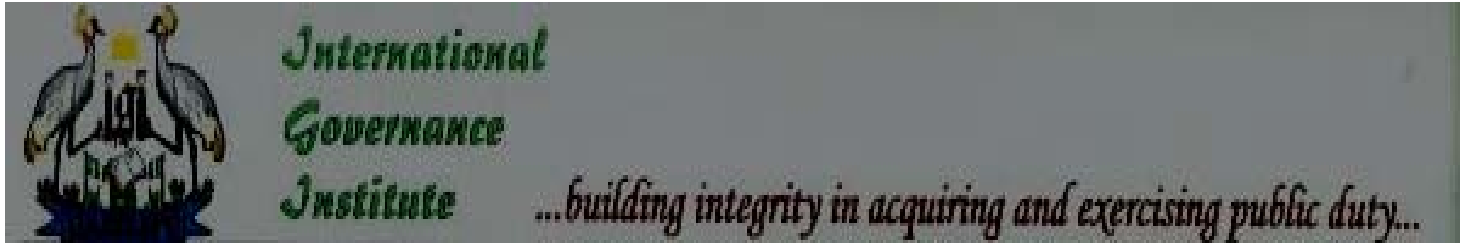
### ***Voter Identification***

In many parts of the country National Identification Cards(NIC) were necessary to register as a voter, despite the law only requiring that an individual prove his/her identity and eligibility to vote. Many who did not yet have these cards were therefore unable to register in some places. We laud the Governments` achievement in computerizing the voters register. However, as it stands, a more secured card linked with a computerized register would provide an effective tool against identity fraud.The Site could be viewed at [www.minatd.net](http://www.minatd.net).

## **ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INDEPENDENT ELECTORAL BODY**

Though ELECAM was voted into law by parliament as the independent body to handle elections in Cameroon, the organization, supervision and monitoring of the July 2007 polls was entrusted in the hands of MINATD and NEO, despite the fact that NEO in its 2004 report on Presidential Elections had recommended the creation of an Independent Electoral Body. The inefficiency of NEO in relation to election supervision and management had

been criticized by the Cameroonian public on grounds that NEO was then indebted to observers whom it assigned to the field to monitor the 2004 presidential election.



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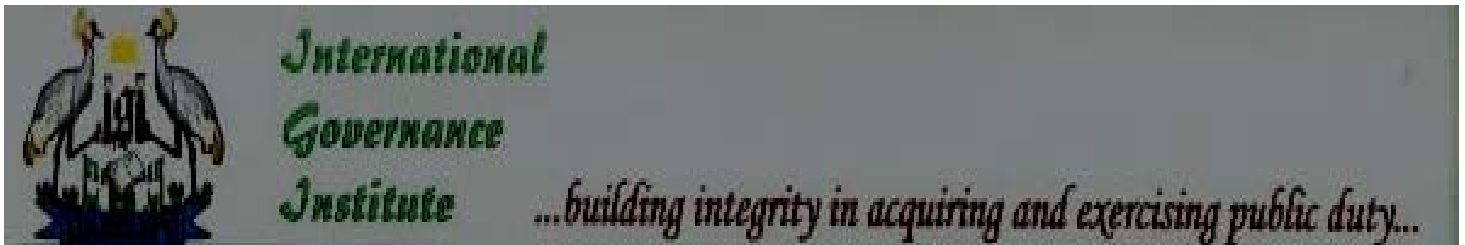
It was felt by many observers that the institution of ELECAM will further strengthen the capacity and autonomy of an Independent Electoral Body. There is still a lot of ambiguity about the extent of NEO's enforcement capabilities particularly in the light of its explicit mandate to "supervise and control" elections when it is quite clear that MINATD and Administration officials in fact control the conduct of elections. There is therefore need for clarity on the respective powers, competencies and responsibilities of MINATD, the Divisional Supervisory Joint Commissions and NEO.

Finally, persistent criticism remains that the appointment of NEO officials are ultimately made by Presidential decree and therefore, the ultimate independence of the body may be called to question.

### ***VOTER EDUCATION AND PUBLIC AWARENESS***

The Government did undertake some initiatives to encourage voter registration, including a nation wide tour by the Minister of Territorial Administration and Decentralization in the course of the year. Provincial and Divisional Administrators also made public announcements through the media to encourage voter registration. NEO equally conducted limited registration awareness activities through the media. However, both MINATD and NEO argued that the key responsibility for voter education and awareness rested with political parties.

Our view is that although the political parties have a role to play in promoting voters awareness it is questionable whether they should take the leading role- this is not their function and they do not have the capacity. This is an area in which the state has to take responsibility, by devoting greater resources and working with civil society organizations and the Cameroon education system. The Team encourages the International Governance Institute to support any such future initiatives in any way they can.



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### ***TRAINING***

The Team is aware of a national voter officials education training workshop put up by NEO in 2006 in each of the 10 provinces. This was one of the most comprehensive initiatives put in place to ensure the adequate training of election or party officials. The training program incorporated devices such as role play and problem solving geared towards promoting efficiency and voters confidence. It is important also for such trainings to be provided in the electoral law most especially as ignorance often leads to irregularities.

### **CONVENING OF THE ELECTORATE AND PREPARATIONS FOR THE POLL**

The convening of the electorate as it is known in Cameroon automatically ended voter registration and triggered the establishment of the Voters Registration Card Commissions, whose task was to compile and distribute the cards. In deed as was with the work with other commissions the control of the production and distribution of Voter's Registration Cards was exercised by the Administration.

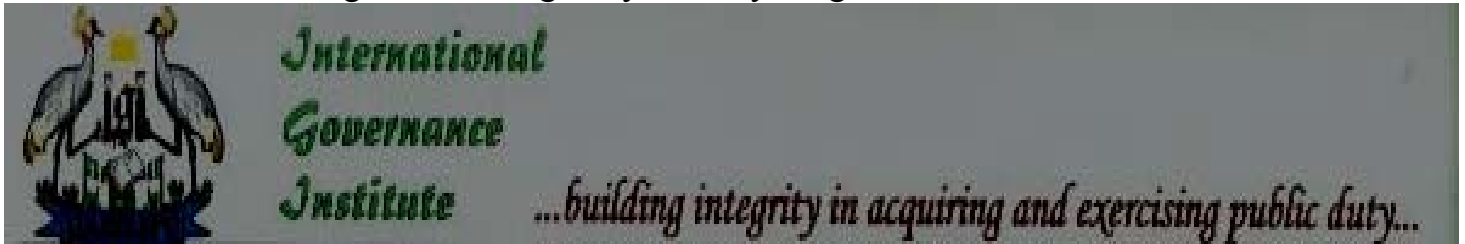
A good number of registration cards were distributed in advanced of polling day even though the Voters Registration Cards were to be distributed within a period of 15 days before the day of election.

#### **Access to Voters Registers**

Divisional officers were required to post the registers at their offices for public access 48 hours before the elections. List of the location of all polling stations were also to be similarly posted. The registers were then supposed to be posted at the polling stations the day before the election.

The Team observed consistency in the application of these procedures. Voters' Registers were in most cases posted at Divisional Offices properly in advanced of the election. Voters Registers were also largely posted in polling stations the day before the elections. In effect public access to the registers were not limited .The only disadvantage was that the

process was not user-friendly as the names on the list at the Divisional Offices and polling stations were not arranged chronologically for easy usage and identification.



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### **CHAPTER V THE CAMPAIGN AND MEDIA**

#### ***The Campaign***

The campaign was peaceful, the parties behaved tolerant towards each other, but our Team remarked that there was an intense atmosphere of apathy in many parts of the country. However, the ruling party ( CPDM) dominated the landscape, with posters in every town and nearly every village. Only a handful of opposition parties had national reach.

The law states that election campaign shall open on the fifteenth day preceding the day of election and close at midnight on the eve of the election day. In practice campaign began well before then. The ruling party for instance launched its campaign weeks before the actual start date stated by the law. There can therefore be no “level-playing field” when other stakeholders fail to respect the rules of engagement during campaign. The law in this area needs to be clarified and tightened, to make clear what constitute campaigning and exactly what is allowed and when.

#### ***The Nature of the Campaign***

A significant characteristic noticeable in almost all major cities of the country was apathy and indifferent on the part of the citizens. Although the campaign was quiet and peaceful, in most parts there was a gross lack of interest and enthusiasm amongst young people who appeared to be less taken by the event and activities. One reason for this could be that the manifestoes and statements produced for campaign by political parties did not focus on concrete policy issues.

Campaign methods included motorcades, door to door campaigning, and rallies. In the South West province for instance scores of young motorcycle taxi drivers were given

CPDM flags to put out on their bikes during special rallies in return for an amount of about CFA 2,000.



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Notwithstanding, the most visible features of the parties' campaigning were their public rallies and meetings. Often the numbers at these rallies were not large, but all the main parties including the CPDM, SDF, UNDP and APF held such events in major towns culminating with major rallies in Yaounde, Bamenda and N'oundere. The Team noticed that senior officers of the ruling party used these events to announce or promise investment projects such as schools, electricity, roads and bridges. It is worth noting that the International Governance Institute Focal Integrity Team (FITCAM) officers were unable to attend some of the major rallies for lack of financial and logistical resources.

### ***Media Behavior***

There was no specific Code of Conduct for the media at this election. Media in Cameroon is officially regulated by the Law on Freedom of Social Communication. The Independent Media – CRTV made formal arrangements for access to the public broadcast media by the candidates. Although these "access broadcasts" represented an equitable arrangement for direct appeals to the public by political parties, their value was diminished by the fact that the neighboring CRTV programs were biased in favor of the ruling party.

This therefore accounts for the reason why most opposition parties preferred "access broadcast" through private media stations by party candidates. There was a considerable degree of media freedom in the coverage and access to the election even though those that were able to do so had been subject to the Government's licensing arrangements on broadcast media.

Election management bodies in many countries recognize that they have an important role in promoting balanced media coverage prior to and after during elections. Our Team is not aware of any related "balanced media coverage action" taken by NEO or MINATD or

other MINATD involvement in promoting a level media playing field. The Team hope that Cameroon will consider how “such bodies” charged with the supervision and management of elections will perform this role in the years to come.



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### **CHAPTER VI** **THE POLL,COUNT AND RESULT PROCESS**

#### **PREPARATIONS**

On the polling day there was expected to be about 21,000 polling stations. The law stated that each of these stations would have a Local Polling Commission consisting of the following members:

##### **Chairman:**

-A representative of the Administration, appointed by the Senior Divisional Officer

##### **Members:**

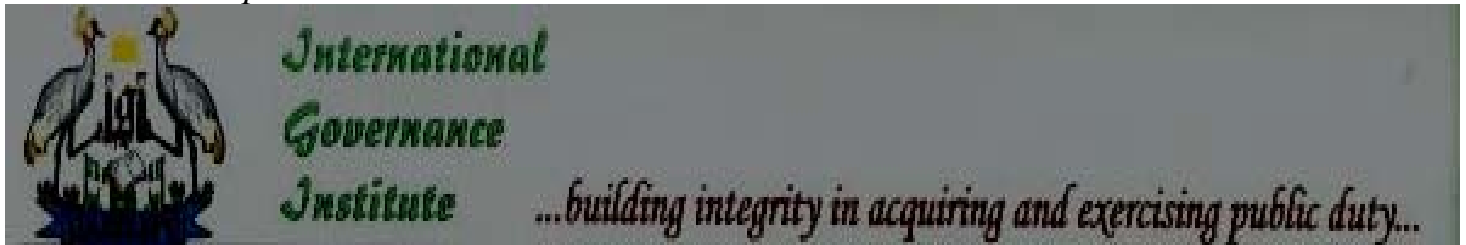
-A representative of each candidate or list of candidates who no later than the fourth day before the day of election appoint a polling agent for each polling station from among electors whose names appear on the register of electors for such station.

No Polling Commission shall consist of less than five members, including the Chairman. The Team was informed that security at the stations would be provided for by members of the police, whom also, as stated in Chapter one ( The Right to Vote) Sect.11.(3) had the right to vote but were refused this right in some polling stations. Businesses were closed for the day, the movement of people and vehicles were restricted and the borders closed.

The stations were due to open at 8:00 am, when the plastic seals would be placed on the ballot box in the presence of all the candidate’s representatives. The prescribed procedure for voting would be as follows:

- *The voter shall present his/her Voters Card and have his/her name and other details checked against those on the register.;*

- Sign against his/her name on the register and issued with a set of ballot papers and an envelope



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*-Proceed to a screened area, where she/he would insert into the envelope the ballot paper of his/her chosen candidate and discard the other ballot papers in the waste bag provided;*

*-Place the envelope in the ballot box, return to the officials` table, have his/her thumb inked with and placed on the Voter`s Card, with the date stamped along side;*

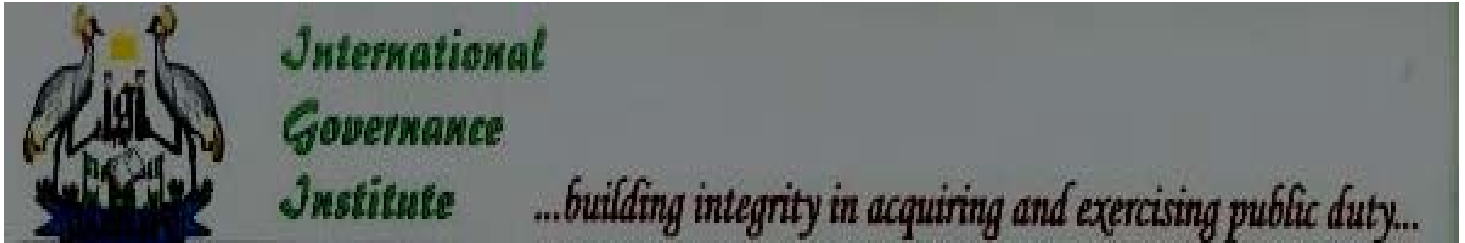
*-Take back the Voter`s Card and leave the polling station*

The stations were due to close at 6:00pm, after the Chairperson of the polling station had allowed the members of his/her Commission, the NEO representatives and the candidates representatives to vote. The aperture on the ballot box will be sealed and the station rearranged. Each envelope will then be opened, one by one and its content showed and announced to all present.

The law stipulates that the used ballot papers will be burned at the polling station. The Chairperson and colleagues would then complete the necessary paperwork, pack the materials in the empty ballot box and take the box and the official result sheet to the district collation center.

Observers would be allowed at the poll, count and collation center. International and Cameroonian non- governmental organizations which had completed MINATD accreditation procedure will be allowed to have observers. The National Elections Observatory would also have a delegate at each polling station.

On election day, the International Governance Institute- Focal Integrity Team (FITCAM) came across other domestic observers such as; the Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace, Human Rights Watch, Bread For the World, Human Rights Commission`s Christian Election Body and the National Elections Observatory.



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Our Team's 7 man Observer's Unit were present in the opening of at least 5 polling stations and made several round trips to as many polling stations as were possible during the day in the South West Province. Where possible our Team followed the results sheets and ballot box from the count to the district collation center, to observe the transmission of the polling station result and the handling of the materials.

### **Evaluation**

Our Team call the fact that Cameroon was peaceful for the most parts in the polling, counting and the collation of votes. There were other encouraging factors which we set out beneath.

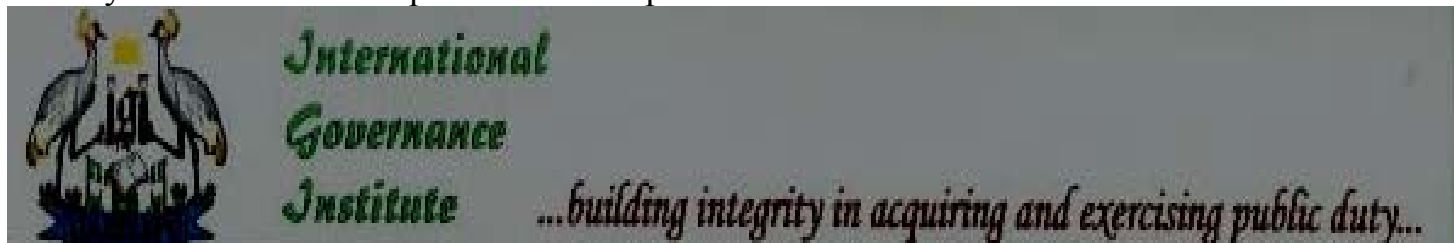
Nonetheless, there were also tremendous flaws in the process. These are again set out beneath. Principal amongst them is the actuality that, at the poll, count and collation, as in other stages in the process the vital ingredient in proper election management, the independence of the management body ( *the distinction between the Administration and the Independent Management Body* ) was not there, seeing that the process was organized and controlled by MINATD.

### ***The Voting process***

FITCAM believes in the rule that countries should be able to adapt democratic systems to national ecological circumstances. However we believe that Cameroon's Voter's Registration process should be reviewed-inability to find one's name on the Voter's Register and to obtain his/her registration card prior to voting can disrupt and provoke self induce flaws that will distort the whole process.

The Team witnessed a good number of scenes where members of some Polling Commission almost fought each other over the eligibility to vote of electors who did not

possess voters card . According to some of the opposition candidates representative at the Voters Commission, Most Chair persons at the Polling Stations will claim that they identify such electors who presumable are pro-CPDM .



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The use of the strategy of identifying electors whose names are on the Voters Register but do not have their Voters Card makes the voting process much more difficult to manage and opens up possibilities for abuse and corruption.

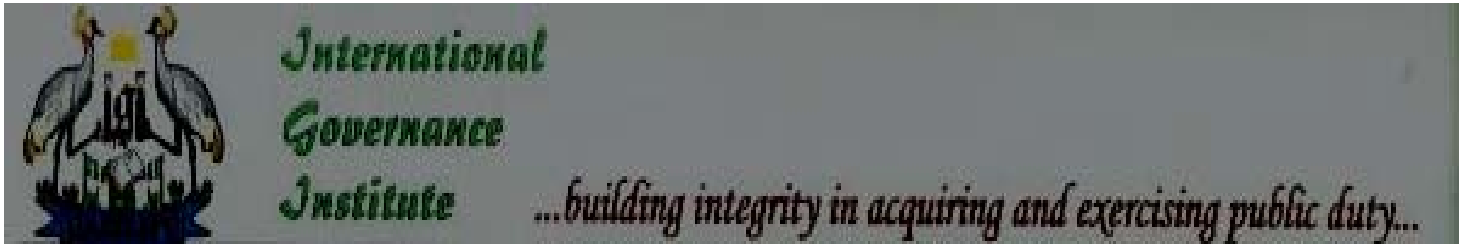
### ***Reliability of the Register***

The team strongly believes that “registration in person” should be the prime in determining voters entitlement to a voters card. This will be a high-quality step in restricting the incidence of “*ambulance registration*”- where certain candidates allegedly registered for their party sympathizers.

Actually, the Team had no confidence in the integrity of the register that was used on the Municipal and Legislative Election day. Based on our observation we believe that:

- Owing to deficiencies in the authorities` voters arrangement and the “NEO/ELECAM Question” many people whose names should have been on the register were not.
- Despite the computerization of the Electoral Register by MINATD and NEO`s attempt to remove the names of dead people and duplicated entries, there were still evidence of names of persons who died long ago. The names remained on the list on the election day.

Our Team came across people who insisted that they had registered but whose names did not appear on the list; sometimes the protest were numerous.. We found people who were moving from station to station, searching for their names. The confusion and frustration experienced by some voters in trying to establish whether and where they were on the register did not lead to serious disturbances even though the problems experienced are no less serious for that. We did not find traces of hand written changes and additions on the register.



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### *Abnormalities*

The most conspicuous irregularity witnessed by our Team was that the ink that was used in almost all the polling stations in South West – Fako Division were effaceable. Thus persons could easily vote as many times as possible since the purpose of the ink was defeated due to its effaceable nature.

Even though there were official public security officers on board as the law prescribed, we realized that the ruling party had equally dispatched its own security men (Vanguards) who were however not recognized by the Chairpersons of such polling stations where our Team met them. This attitude is not healthy considering that each party or candidates' interest is somewhat taken care of by his/her representative in the Commissions.

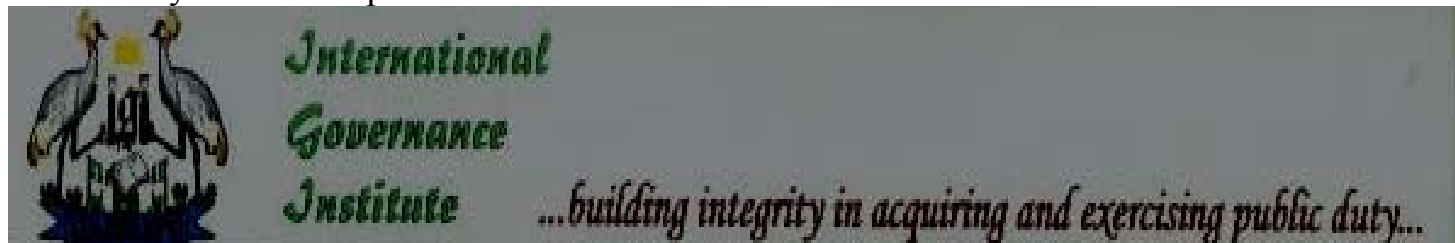
We observed an incident where a Municipal candidate of the ruling party was found defending the interest of one of his party militant with irregularities at the polling station. This is not a good practice as such responsibilities are exclusive to members of that Commission.

### *Polling Stations and Officials*

Our team observed that a good number of personal residents such as houses of individuals and compound of Quarter heads were used to serve as polling stations, to such an extent that some bed rooms were used for the secure ballot screened area. In our view polling stations should in no way be located at places associated with individuals or traditional rulers.

Again some polling stations were not spacious enough to ease efficient work and transparency of the various commission.

More so, some polling agents/ Chairpersons did not know where to submit the final result of their various polling station after the counts. This is a huge abnormality because forgery could easily have taken place.



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Finally, in other countries those staffing the polling stations would be polling officials employed by the election management body. In Cameroon, however, we found that most of those staffing the polling stations were party representatives.

There were the categories of party figures on the Polling Station Commissions, or the candidates` representatives, who had been mandated to protect their candidate`s interest at the polling station. As a matter of principle the task of running polling stations should be performed by people who are not partisan in any way and whose loyalty is to the integrity of the process rather than to a particular candidate or party.

### ***Secrecy of the Ballot***

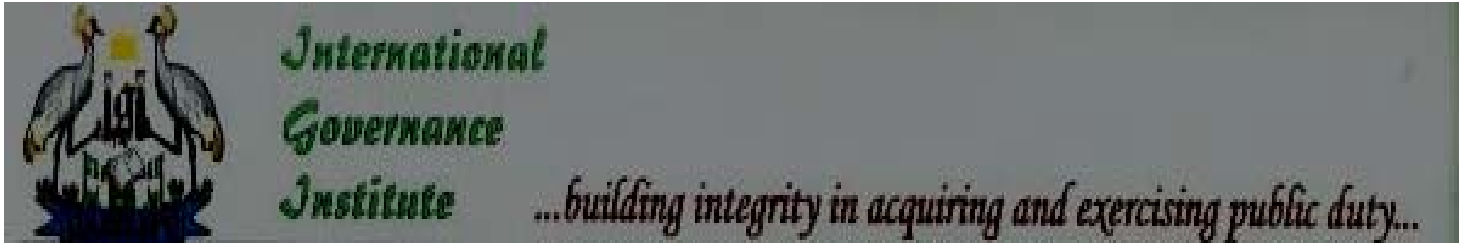
With just a few exceptions the screened area where the voter placed his/her ballot paper into the envelop was well protected from the eyes of officials, party representatives and other observers. It was not also possible to see through the envelop and identify the ballot paper inside.

### ***Voter Behavior***

Most voters understood what they were to do at the poling stations and for the most part, they were patient and orderly; taking their responsibilities seriously and co-operating with those running the polling stations. Even when they made clear that they were not satisfied with the way things were being done they did not impede the operation of the polling station.

### ***Assistance to the Illiterate and Voters with Special Needs***

Special assistance were provided to the illiterate and those with special needs in most of the stations that our Team visited.



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### *Security*

Security was usually present in all of the polling stations that we visited. It was both discreet and effective.

### *The Closure*

It was relatively rapid but transparent. Often a crowd will gather eager to see the beginning of the count.

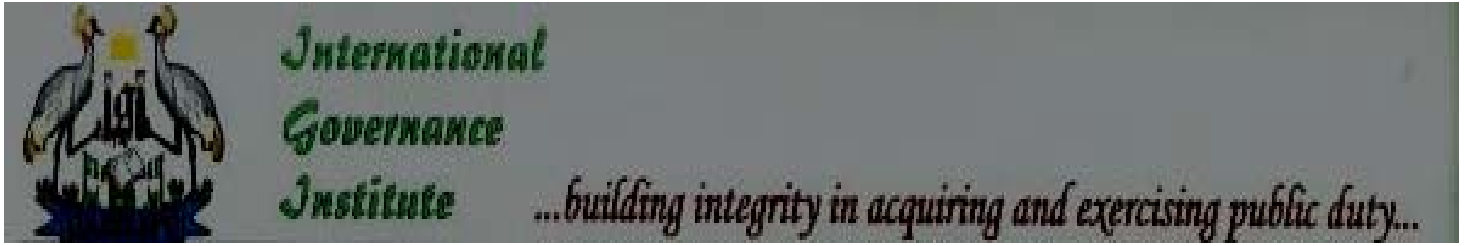
### *The Count*

The process was transparent and the lightening was relatively good.. The presence of many voters and other citizens around the counting meant that the process was scrutinized by many eyes. In our Teams view the active involvement of the crowd of onlookers, ensuring for instance, that the count done and record takers were loudly informed of any mistakes was welcome. The transparency of this process was aided by the holding up of each ballot paper and the rejected ballots, one at a time, so that all present could see. Our Team also noticed that ballots were being identified by the political party for which the voter had voted rather than by the names of the candidates.

Representatives of the candidates, NEO and international observer groups were allowed to be present. The procedure that all the candidates` representatives were asked to sign and were given copies of the results sheet was an important item of good practice.

### *Procedure for the Transmission of Results*

In all cases where our Team was present, the results as agreed at the polling stations were transmitted to the district collation center even though some Chairpersons of the Commissions did not actually know where exactly the ballot boxes and result sheets were to be submitted as it was alleged that the previous venue had been changed.



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We noticed also that conditions at the district collation centers were chaotic. The law provides for NEO representatives and candidates` representatives to accompany the results and the ballot boxes from the polling station to the district center; often they did not do so.

While observers were allowed to watch the process which followed the transmission of the polling station results to the district level, we were not always made to feel welcome. In contrast to the situations at the count, the public were not allowed.

Four of our Team followed the polling station results to the district level and then observed at those centers subsequently.

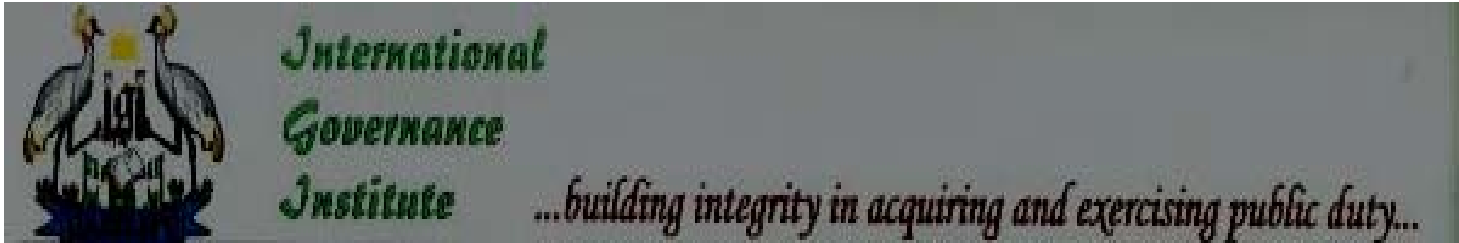
***Integrity of the Process***

A number of points have already been mentioned bearing the integrity of the process. However there were other few that took our concern.

First, the ink did not provide protection against fraud. We found that it could be wipe off easily, so that within minutes there was no trace of it . This practice should be noted is characteristic of the practice in Cameroon, we hope this time the authorities will look seriously into it.

Secondly the we noticed that the ballot papers were not numbered and those run9ing the polling stations appeared to have no idea of the quantities they were given. This was a case of an inadequate procedure, because the problem was to be found virtually everywhere and was intrinsic- rather than exceptional- to the process.

Finally and fundamentally we have seen that the whole process was run by the government ministry and it s agents in the local administration rather than an independent election management body.



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**Ultimate Assessment**

Our Team’s final assessment was that there were so many shortcomings and they were very fundamental, that the overall process lacks credibility in a number of key areas.

