

## THE YAOUNDÉ DECLARATION

We the leaders of political parties, candidates in the 2011 Presidential Elections and signatories of this declaration hereby state as follows;

1. For several decades now, the people of Cameroon have desired to have free and fair elections conducted by an Independent Electoral Commission
2. After more than 20 years of struggle, Elections Cameroon was created. Right from its creation, it was obvious that it was not an independent authority and the law that created Elections Cameroon was condemned by all right thinking Cameroonians and by the international community
3. To add insult to injury, the president of the Republic in appointing the members of the board of Elections Cameroon, packed it with members of the CPDM Central Committee and Political Bureau and it is only after their appointment that they resigned their political positions in the CPDM just to comply with the form and not the substance of the law. Furthermore CPDM militants filled the divisional and sub-divisional commissions.
4. It came as no surprise, therefore, that on the eve of the elections a presidential decree removed a member of Elections Cameroon who had been awarded a communication contract for candidate Paul Biya by placing all over the territory of Cameroon the posters containing his portrait.
5. In spite of the shortcomings of Elections Cameroon, credible political parties who were committed to maintaining peace in Cameroon, persuaded the people of Cameroon to register their names in the voters list and prepare to vote when the time would arrive.
6. A few days before the election we observed that less than 30 % of the voters cards had been distributed and that the Divisional Committee envisaged by section 24 of law n° 92/010 of 17<sup>th</sup> Sept 1992 regulating the conditions of electing the president of the Republic was not functioning as required by section 24 of the law as quoted above. It was also observed that people who had been deceased for years were still issued voting cards. In short, there was a great malfunctioning of Elections Cameroon which warranted some of us to address a petition to the Constitutional Council in accordance with section 41 of law n° 2006/011 of 29/12/2006 asking the Council to observe and report to the President of the Republic that Elections Cameroon was unable to perform the functions

assigned to it, in order that the President of the Republic in accordance with the law could take necessary measures to remedy the situation. The Constitutional Council did not do anything.

7. On the morning of the 9<sup>th</sup> it was clear that everything concerning voting on that day was not only chaotic but there were massive irregularities.

These are a few examples;

- (i) More than 70% of voting cards had not been distributed on the morning of the 9<sup>th</sup> of October, 2011 and as a consequence, those who had registered to vote were not in possession of the voting cards.
- (ii) Many voters were registered more than once and in several places
- (iii) Many people were caught with multiple voting cards, all over the Republic
- (iv) Many who were dead between September 2007 and August 2011 were still on the list of voters and voting cards were issued in their favor and are on record as having voted;
- (v) Many voting stations opened at 14:30 hrs to close at 18:00 hrs;
- (vi) Almost every where polling stations were presided by known members of the CPDM who used the large number of unclaimed voting cards to vote in their respective polling stations;
- (vii) Poor organization by ELECAM, which included late delivery of voting material at various polling stations, forced many Cameroonians who showed up at the polls early to be deprived of their right to vote.
- (viii) In a large number of polling stations ballots of various candidates were unavailable for hours after the vote had begun;
- (ix) In clear violation of the Code of Conduct, polling stations were installed in Chiefs' Palaces, private homes and military camps. Worse many polling stations did not have an ELECAM representative, thus officials had a field day;
- (x) The abusive use of state property by the incumbent candidate during the campaigns;

As a result of the above we the undersigned declare that Elections Cameroon as presently constituted completely failed to organize free and fair elections. We therefore reject any

result that shall be declared by the Constitutional Council because of our well-founded conviction that there were really no elections in Cameroon on the 9<sup>th</sup> of October 2011.

Consistent with Article 99 of Law No. 92/010 of 17th September 1992. We call upon the Constitutional Council to annul the presidential elections of 9th October 2011 as convincingly spelled out in the various petitions that have been filed before the Council.

**Should the Constitutional Council refuse to annul this counterfeit election and insist on declaring a result, we hereby call on the people to come out massively to demonstrate in favor of their right to participate in free and fair elections.**

**To avert an inevitable social upheaval we further call for the revision of all electoral laws and the establishment of a new electoral system, which is truly independent and acceptable by all stakeholders within 6 months and the conducting of a new Presidential Elections.**

We can assure all Cameroonians that we shall be with them and in the forefront of these demonstrations until the establishment of an electoral system capable of ensuring free and fair elections.

Dated at Yaoundé this 15<sup>th</sup> day of October 2011.

***Signed***

<i>No d'ordre</i>	<i>Noms et prénoms</i>	<i>Parti politique ou qualité</i>	<i>signature</i>

1	NI JOHN FRU HDI	SDP	<del>Signature</del>
2	Edith Kabang Nalla	C PA	Signature
3	Dr Adam Nkai Nkai	UDC	Signature
4	Bernard A. Mune	APP	Signature
5	MOMO Jean de Dieu	PASDEC	Signature
6	Albert DZONGANG	la Dynamique	Signature
7	Ayoh Paul Abine	PAP	Signature
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