

# **Law N° 2000/015 of 19 December 2000 relating to the Public Funding of Political Parties and Election Campaigns**

The national Assembly deliberated and adopted, the President of the Republic hereby enacts the law set out below:

## **PART I : GENERAL PROVISIONS**

**SECTION 1.**- This law institutes public funding of political parties and election campaigns.

**SECTION 2.**- (1) Legally recognised political parties may receive public funding within the context of their role in elections under conditions defined in Part II of this law.

(2) Public funding shall serve to cover regular political party activities as well as for the organisation of election campaigns.

## **PART II : CONDITIONS FOR RECEIVING PUBLIC FUNDING**

### **CHAPTER I : FUNDING OF POLITICAL PARTIES**

**SECTION 3.**- Each year, the finance law shall include a subsidy to cover certain operating costs of legally recognised political parties, in accordance with the provisions of sections 6 to 8 below.

**SECTION 4.**- The subsidy shall be an allocation of public funds by the State to a political party to cover inter alia:

- recurrent administrative expenses ;
- the dissemination of its political programme ;
- the co-ordination of the political activities of its members ;
- preparation for elections ;
- the participation of the political party in the various election committees provided for by the laws in force.

**SECTION 5.**- (1) The Bureaux of the National Assembly and the Senate shall jointly propose to Government the amount of the subsidy provided for under Section 3 above.

(2) These proposals should take into account the requirements imposed by budgetary guideline.

**SECTION 6.**- This subsidy shall be divided into 2 (two) equal parts :

- the first, to be allocated to political parties represented in the National Assembly ;
- the second, to be allocated to political parties in accordance with the results obtained at the last legislative election.

**SECTION 7.**- (1) The part allocated to the funding of political parties represented in the National Assembly shall be paid in proportion to the number of seats won by the respective parties.

(2) The Bureau of the National Assembly shall furnish a list of members of the National Assembly representing each political party.

**SECTION 8.**- The part allocated to the funding of political parties in accordance with the results obtained at legislative elections shall be paid to the parties which obtained 5 % of the votes cast in at least one constituency at the last legislative election.

## **CHAPTER II : FUNDING OF ELECTION CAMPAIGNS**

**SECTION 9.**- (1) The State shall contribute to the funding of election campaigns by defraying some of the expenses of political parties during elections.

(2) The State's contribution in respect of the expenses referred to in subsection (1) above shall be included in the finance law of each election year.

**SECTION 10.**- (1) The funding referred to in Section 9 above shall concern expenses relating in particular to the preparation, publishing and printing of circulars, manifestos and posters.

(2) Election campaign expenses may also include:

- expenses resulting from the organisation of election meetings ;
- logistics.

**SECTION 11.**- Public funds earmarked for the funding of election campaigns shall be shared in two equal parts among the political parties taking part in the elections as follows :

- a first part shall be allotted to the political parties which took part in the last legislative election, proportionately in the number of seats ;

- a second part shall be served to all political parties proportionately to the lists submitted and endorsed in the various constituencies.

## **PART II : MISCELLANEOUS AND FINAL PROVISIONS**

**SECTION 12.**- (1) The State contribution provided for in Section 3 an 9 above shall be public funds.

(2) The public funding granted to political parties may not be a source of personal enrichment.

**SECTION 13.**- (1) A control committee shall be set up and empowered to ascertain, on the basis of supporting documents, that the use of funds by political parties is in compliance with the objectives of this law.

(2) The organisation, composition, duties and conditions of functioning of the committee shall be laid down by decree of the President of the Republic.

**SECTION 14.**- Any person who, acting on behalf of a political party, uses the funds provided for within the framework of public funding, for purposes other than those specified in the law shall be punished as provided for in Section 184 of Penal Code.

**SECTION 15.**- The measures provided for in Section 5 shall concern the National Assembly only, until the institution of the Senate.

**SECTION 16.**- A decree shall lay down the modalities of implementation of this law.

**SECTION 17.**- This law shall be registered, published according to the procedure of urgency, and inserted in the official gazette in English and French./-

Yaounde, 19 december 2000

Paul BIYA

President of the Republic.