

Law n° 2005 / 015 of 29 December 2005 relating to the fight against child trafficking and slavery

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

CHAPTER I: GENERAL PROVISIONS

SECTION 1 : This law is on the fight against child trafficking and slavery

SECTION 2 : For the purposes of this law, the following terms shall mean :

- a)** Child : any person of either sex aged below 18 years;
- b)** Child trafficking : The act of moving or helping to move a child within or outside Cameroon with a view to directly or indirectly reaping any financial or material benefit therefrom, whatsoever;
- c)** Child slavery : The recruitment, transfer, accommodation or reception of children for exploitative purposes through threat, use of force or other forms of duress, through kidnapping, fraud, deceit, abuse of authority or acceptance of benefits to obtain the consent of a person having authority over a child;
- d)** Child exploitation : Comprises, at least, the use or procurement or offering of children or any other forms of sexual exploitation, exploitation of child labour or forced labour, slavery or practices similar to slavery, serfdom or organ removal;
- e)** Consent of the person is vitiated : Where acts of violence were committed on the victim himself or on the persons having legal or customary custody;
- f)** Debt bondage of children : The act of pledging a child before a creditor as security for a loan or debt, for exploitative purposes.

CHAPTER II: SANCTIONS

SECTION 3 : (1) Whoever subjects a child to debt bondage shall be punished with imprisonment for from 5 (five) to 10 (ten) years and with fine of from 10 000 (ten thousand) to 500 000 (five hundred thousand) CFA francs.

(2) The penalties provided for in 3 (1) above shall be doubled where the offender is an ascendant, a guardian, or the person having even customary custody over the victim.

(3) Any person who boards a child in debt bondage shall be punished with imprisonment for 10 (ten) years and with fine of from 10 000 (ten thousand) to 1 000 000 (one million) CFA francs.

SECTION 4 : Any person who practices child trafficking or slavery, even occasionally, shall be punished with imprisonment for from 10 (ten) to 20 (twenty) years and with fine of from 50 000 (fifty thousand) to (one million) 1 000 000 CFA francs.

SECTION 5 : Child trafficking and slavery shall be punished with imprisonment for from 15 (fifteen) to 20 (twenty) years and with fine of from 100 000 (one hundred thousand) to 10 000 000 (ten million) CFA francs:

- a)** Where the offence is committed against a minor aged below 15 years;
- b)** Where the offender is the victim's legitimate, natural or adoptive ascendant;
- c)** Where the offender has authority over the child or is expected to participate by virtue of his duties in the fight against slavery or in peacekeeping;
- d)** Where the offence is committed by an organized gang or an association of criminals;
- e)** Where the offence is committed with the use of weapons;
- f)** Where the victim has sustained injuries such as laid down in Section 277 of the Penal Code or has died as a result of the offence.

SECTION 6 : The offenders, co-offenders and accomplices of child debt bondage, trafficking and slavery shall, in addition, be sentenced to the accessory penalties provided for by Section 30 of the Penal Code.

SECTION 7 : Notwithstanding the criminal liability of their managers, corporate bodies may be declared criminally liable and punished with the fines specified above, where the offences were committed by the said managers, in the discharge of their duties.

CHAPTER III: MISCELLANEOUS AND FINAL PROVISIONS

SECTION 8 : This law repeals all previous provisions repugnant thereto.

SECTION 9 : This law shall be registered, published according to the procedure of urgency and inserted in the Official Gazette in English and French.

YAOUNDE, 29th DECEMBER 2005
PAUL BIYA, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC