

ORDER No. 000002 /A/MINDDEVEL OF 08 JAN 2024
to define the code of ethics for officers in charge of municipal
policing.

THE MINISTER OF DECENTRALIZATION AND LOCAL DEVELOPMENT,

Mindful of the Constitution;

Mindful of Law No. 2005/7 of 27 July 2005 to institute the Criminal Procedure Code

Mindful of Law No. 2015/7 of 24 December 2019 to institute the General Code of
Regional and Local Authorities;

Mindful of Decree No. 2011/408 of 9 December 2011 to organize the Government,
as amended and supplemented by Decree No. 2018/190 of 2 March
2018;

Mindful of Decree No. 2018/191 of 2 March 2018 to reorganize the Government;

Mindful of Decree No. 2018/449 of 1 August 2018 to organize the Ministry of
Decentralization and Local Development;

Mindful of Decree No. 2022/354 of 9 August 2022 to lay down conditions for
carrying out municipal policing,

HEREBY ORDERS AS FOLLOWS:

CHAPTER I

GENERAL PROVISIONS



ARTICLE 1: (1) This order, issued pursuant to Article 18(4) of the aforementioned
Decree No. 2022/354 of 9 August 2022, defines the code of ethics for officers in charge
of municipal policing.

(2) It defines the general principles and ethical values that must guide
the day-to-day actions of officers in charge of municipal policing in the discharge of
their duties.

ARTICLE 2: This Code of Ethics defines the obligations of municipal police officers in
the following areas:

- his relationship with his administration;
- use of the equipment and facilities made available;
- his relations with public authorities;
- his relations with the population;

- his relations with the judiciary, and
- his relations with the forces of law and order.

ARTICLE 3: (1) Any officer in charge of municipal policing shall work in a municipal police service under the direct authority of the mayor.

(2) The officer in charge of municipal policing shall discharge the municipal police tasks within his power provided for by the laws and regulations in force.

(3) The post of officer in charge of municipal policing may be held by any Cameroonian citizen who meets the conditions laid down by the regulations in force.

CHAPTER II **THE OFFICER IN CHARGE OF MUNICIPAL POLICING AND HIS** **ADMINISTRATION**

ARTICLE 4: The officer in charge of municipal policing shall discharge his tasks between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m., with the exception of:

- traffic regulation on the public road,
- static guarding of council buildings, or
- surveillance of ceremonies, festivities and celebrations organized by or under the patronage of the council.

ARTICLE 5: The officer in charge of municipal policing shall be subject to the obligation of discretion and strict compliance with professional secrecy.

ARTICLE 6: The officer in charge of municipal policing must behave in an exemplary, impartial and respectful manner at all times and in all places, whether in uniform or in civies.

ARTICLE 7: (1) The behaviour of the officer in charge of municipal policing must be marked by dignity, courtesy and a sense of responsibility.

(2) The officer must not eat, smoke or consume alcohol on the public road or in drinking establishments while in uniform.

ARTICLE 8: Any officer in charge of municipal policing must respect his superiors. This shall be reflected in outward signs of:

- obedience to superiors;
- courteous language;
- decency while in uniform;
- promptness in executing orders received and in dealing with cases;
- obligation of verbal and/or written report;
- respect of official channel.

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ARTICLE 9: (1) The officer in charge of municipal policing must, during duty hours, wear his uniform, as laid down by the regulations in force.

(2) Uniforms may not be worn outside duty hours, during holidays or leave of absence. The same shall apply to officers in charge of municipal policing who have been dismissed or retired.

ARTICLE 10: (1) The head of the service in charge of municipal policing and any superior shall be responsible for the smooth implementation of instructions, as well as for the legality of the measures prescribed and for monitoring their execution.

(2) They must lead by example through:

- self-control, a sense of justice and tolerance;
- courtesy, strictness, objectivity, impartiality;
- probity and moral rectitude.



ARTICLE 11: The head of the municipal police service and all superiors shall be responsible for the orders they give, for their execution and their consequences. They shall set the example for their aides through their actions, their moral rectitude, their attire and their inter-professional relationships.

ARTICLE 12: (1) Any officer in charge of municipal policing shall obey the orders of his superiors and conscientiously carry out the orders he receives, in accordance with the law.

(2) The officer in charge of municipal policing must not carry out an order requiring him to perform illegal acts.

(3) An aide who receives such an order must either demand that it should be in writing or bring the matter before the head in charge of the municipal policing service or before the council chief executive, where the order comes from the service head.

ARTICLE 13: (1) The authority who confirms an illegal order shall be held liable.

(2) In case of illegality being evoked without legitimate grounds, or in order not to carry out a lawful order, the aide shall be liable to disciplinary action.

ARTICLE 14: The officer in charge of municipal policing who acts within the limits of his powers and in accordance with the laws in force shall benefit from the protection of the council or the city council.

ARTICLE 15: The head of the service in charge of municipal policing or any officer in charge of municipal policing shall exercise hierarchical power of a certain level and be bound by the duty to supervise. As such, he must:

- respect the law, ensure that it is respected and abide by it;
- defend, protect and respect fundamental human rights;

- shun tribalism, favouritism, nepotism, discrimination, and corrupt practices;
- serve the local authority in accordance with the law, and not serve or enslave himself;
- promote and maintain patriotism within the service;
- maintain discipline;
- share his experience with the officers in charge of municipal policing under his command;
- give priority to the use of the official languages at work;
- maintain excellent human relations in his professional environment.

ARTICLE 16: Apart from teaching on an additional or temporary basis, rural production and the production of scientific, literary or artistic works, it shall be forbidden for any officer in charge of municipal policing to engage in private gainful activities.

ARTICLE 17: (1) In the discharge of their duties, officers in charge of municipal policing shall be non-political.

(2) During duty hours, the officer in charge of municipal policing may not take part, while in uniform, in meetings and demonstrations of a political or trade union nature.

ARTICLE 18: Officers in charge of municipal policing must respect the secular nature of the public service. They must not transform their place of duty into a place of worship, nor force their colleagues or associates to adhere to their religion.

ARTICLE 19: By reason of the obligation of reserve to which they are subject, officers in charge of municipal policing must not grant interviews to the media without the authorization of the council chief executive.

ARTICLE 20: Officers in charge of municipal policing must cultivate a spirit of solidarity. Generally, they shall owe one another mutual respect, help and assistance.

ARTICLE 21: Officers in charge of municipal policing are required to take part in all training and capacity-building activities organized by the local authority in which they carry out their duties.

ARTICLE 22: In providing support to the council treasury, the officer in charge of municipal policing shall refrain from collecting tax revenue or any other resources inherent in the application of a penalty, unless expressly authorized to do so by the council treasurer under the conditions provided for by the laws in force.

CHAPTER III **USE OF MATERIAL AND EQUIPMENT BY THE OFFICER IN CHARGE OF** **MUNICIPAL POLICING**

ARTICLE 23: (1) The officer in charge of municipal policing shall be responsible for the material and equipment made available to him. He may only use them for the discharge of his duties and in a judicious manner.

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(2) He shall not be allowed to use service property for personal purposes

ARTICLE 24: The officer in charge of municipal policing shall not carry or use weapons

ARTICLE 25: The officer in charge of municipal policing shall be responsible at all times for the conservation and use of material and equipment made available to him for the discharge of his duties.

ARTICLE 26: In the discharge of his duties, a municipal police officer may only drive a service vehicle if he holds the corresponding driving licence and the required mission order signed by the council chief executive.

ARTICLE 27: Any loss or damage to documents, material and equipment must be reported immediately to the council chief executive. Any failure to comply with this obligation shall constitute an administrative error and render the officer in charge of municipal policing liable to payment of a financial or material compensation for the damage caused.

CHAPTER IV

OFFICER IN CHARGE OF MUNICIPAL POLICING AND PUBLIC AUTHORITIES

ARTICLE 28: The officer in charge of municipal policing must be available, courteous and respectful of public authorities, in particular:

- members of the Government;
- parliamentarians;
- judicial authorities;
- heads of administrative units;
- ambassadors or officials in a diplomatic or consular mission;
- secretaries-general of ministries and persons ranking as such;
- executives of regional and local authorities;
- heads of public establishments and enterprises;
- central administration directors and persons ranking as such.

ARTICLE 29: Both on duty and in private, the officer in charge of municipal policing must refrain from any act, gesture, demonstration or declaration of a political, tribal, philosophical or religious nature likely to discredit national institutions, the local authority to which he belongs and the authorities that embody them, or to disturb public order and peace.

CHAPTER V

OFFICER IN CHARGE OF MUNICIPAL POLICING AND THE POPULATION

ARTICLE 30: (1) The officer in charge of municipal policing shall respect and ensure that he does not violate the rights of others.



(2) The officer in charge of municipal policing shall respect the right to liberty and safety of the person, the right to private and family life, the right to inviolability of the home and the secrecy of correspondence.

ARTICLE 31: In the discharge of their tasks, officers in charge of municipal policing shall be guided by the principles of impartiality and scrupulous respect for fundamental human rights, in particular the right to respect of the physical integrity and to respect of the property of all persons.

ARTICLE 32: The officer in charge of municipal policing may not use force or coerce the population, except in cases of lawful defence.

ARTICLE 33: (1) In the discharge of his duties in contact with the population, the officer in charge of municipal policing must always state his identity and the council or city council to which he belongs, before any questioning.

(2) He must make sure that his full names, as well as the name of the councils in which he works, embroidered or engraved on their shirts or pullovers, are visible and legible.

ARTICLE 34: (1) Where an officer in charge of municipal policing checks the existence and validity of administrative documents under the authority of the mayor, he shall be authorized, in case of a proven violation of regulations, to check and record the identity of the offender.

(2) Where the offender refuses to comply or is unable to prove his identity, the officer in charge of municipal policing shall immediately report the matter to the mayor, who may do the same to any officer of the national police or gendarmerie with territorial jurisdiction. The latter may then order the offender to present an identity document to the officer in charge of municipal policing without delay.

(3) In the absence of such an order, the officer in charge of municipal policing may not detain the offender, his identity document or the administrative document in question.

ARTICLE 35: In the discharge of his duties, the officer in charge of municipal policing must refrain from any discrimination based on gender, race, ethnic origin, language, religion, education, political affiliation, opinions, disability, social position or any other grounds prohibited by the national and international instruments in force.

ARTICLE 36: (1) Officers in charge of municipal policing must not place themselves in a position of material dependence on persons or organizations, by eliciting or accepting gifts in kind or in cash or promises of gifts from them, in order to carry out or not an act relating to their duties.

(2) Officers in charge of municipal policing shall not take advantage of the powers conferred on them by the laws in force to attempt to obtain any remuneration whatsoever.



(3) An officer in charge of municipal policing must report any act of corruption or influence peddling of which he is aware or which has occurred to him.

ARTICLE 37: (1) An officer in charge of municipal policing must not resort to trickery, deception or other fraudulent manoeuvres in order to obtain any benefits whatsoever from the population.

(2) An officer in charge of municipal policing must not appropriate the property belonging to others, or those seized or consigned in the discharge of his duties.

ARTICLE 38: In the discharge of his duties, an officer in charge of municipal policing shall be prohibited from associating with any person who is not a council employee, subject to prior authorization from the council chief executive.



CHAPTER VI
OFFICER IN CHARGE OF MUNICIPAL POLICING AND THE JUDICIAL
INSTITUTION

ARTICLE 39: (1) The sworn officer in charge of municipal policing shall discharge the duties of a judicial police officer with special jurisdiction.

(2) Under the authority of the council chief executive, he shall draw up a report of any offences falling within the executive's remit.

ARTICLE 40: (1) A sworn officer in charge of municipal policing shall not cover up an offence which has been brought to his attention or which he witnessed.

(2) In his dealings with the perpetrators of offences, the officer in charge of municipal policing shall be honest and impartial. He shall take into account all the facts relating to the case when establishing the offence.

CHAPTER VII
OFFICER IN CHARGE OF MUNICIPAL POLICING AND LAW ENFORCEMENT
AND SECURITY OFFICERS

ARTICLE 41: (1) In the discharge of his tasks, the officer in charge of municipal policing shall not take the place of law enforcement and security officers. He may not interfere in the duties of the said forces.

(2) The officer in charge of municipal policing shall refrain from wearing any uniform or using any equipment likely to cause confusion with those of law enforcement and security forces.

ARTICLE 42: (1) A municipal police officer may not oppose the operations of law enforcement and security forces.

(2) The officer in charge of municipal policing shall be held criminally liable where he opposes the operations mentioned in paragraph 1 above, without prejudice to any disciplinary actions that may be taken against him.

ARTICLE 43: In case of a conflict of jurisdiction with law enforcement and security forces, the officer in charge of municipal policing shall immediately cease his action and withdraw, regardless of his competence. He shall report immediately to the council chief executive.

ARTICLE 44: The officer in charge of municipal policing must spontaneously declare his identity to members of law enforcement and security officers when the latter discharge their duties.

ARTICLE 45: In case of recourse to the forces of law and order to supervise a municipal police operation, the officer in charge of municipal policing must, in his relations with the staff of the said forces, refrain from any comment, act or gesture likely to compromise the collaboration necessary for the accomplishment of the tasks assigned to them.

ARTICLE 46: (1) In actions carried out under the supervision of the forces of law and order, officers in charge of municipal policing shall be obliged to comply with the orders they receive, in accordance with the laws and regulations in force.

(2) In case of a tip-off, the officer in charge of municipal policing must inform the council chief executive or the head of the service in charge of municipal policing, by any available means.

CHAPTER VIII **MISCELLANEOUS AND FINAL PROVISIONS**

ARTICLE 43: Any violation of the duties and obligations contained in this order shall expose the perpetrator to disciplinary action, without prejudice, where applicable, to the civil or criminal sanctions provided for by law.

ARTICLE 44: This order shall be registered, published and inserted in the Official Gazette in English and French.

Yaounde, 08 JAN 2024

