

Law No. 90-42 of 19 December 1990 To institute a national identity card

The National assembly has deliberated and adopted,
The **President** of the Republic hereby enacts the law set out below:

Section 1: (1) A national identity card whose characteristics shall be determined by regulations is hereby instituted.

(2) Possession of a national identity card shall be compulsory throughout the country for all citizens aged eighteen or more,

Section 2: (1) Unless proved otherwise, the identity of a person shall be established by a national identity card. It must be presented upon request. It may not be transferred or loaned.

(2) In the event of loss, the nearest service having competence must be notified within 15 days.

Section 3: The issue of national identity cards shall be subject to the payment of a stamp duty, the amount of which shall be fixed by the finance law.

Section 4: (1) Whoever forges or alters a national identity card or makes use of, transfers or acquires such document, whether free of charge or not, shall be punished with imprisonment for from one year to three years or with fine of from 50,000 francs to 200,000 francs, or with both such imprisonment and fine.

(2) The penalties provided for under Section 4 (1) shall be doubled if the forger or his accomplice is a civil servant or a State employee.

Section 5: Whoever assumes

- a false civil status in a national identity card or in an application therefore or
- makes use of a national identity card issued under any civil status other than his *own* or
- whoever makes use of a national identity card which is not his, or
- any keepers of common boarding houses or their agents who, whether for payment or not, knowingly accept guests who do not possess a national identity card or passport or
- whoever does not possess a national identity card shall be punished with imprisonment for from three months to one year or with fine of from 50,000 to 100,000 francs or with both such imprisonment and fine.

Section 6: The conditions for implementing this law shall be determined by regulations.

Section 7: All previous provisions repugnant hereto, *in particular* Law No. 64-LF-22 of 13 November 1964 and Section 206 of the Penal Code concerning the national identity card, are hereby repealed.

Section 8: This law shall be registered, published according to the procedure of urgency and inserted in the Official *Gazette* in English and French.

Yaoundé, 19 December 1990.

Paul Biya
President of the Republic