

REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON  
Peace - Work - Fatherland

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MINISTRY OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS  
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MINISTER'S OFFICE

N° 2021/ / MINAS/CAB

REPUBLIQUE DU CAMEROUN  
Paix - Travail - Patrie

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MINISTERE DES AFFAIRES SOCIALES  
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Yaounde, on

**LAUNCHING CEREMONY OF THE "CIVIC AND PATRIOTIC HOLIDAY"  
2021 WITHOUT COVID-19**

**Theme: "Proactive commitment of young people for the protection  
of the environment and the fight against COVID-19"**

**QUESTION ADDRESSED TO THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS**

*Madam Minister of Social Affairs,*

During school holiday, there is an upsurge of risky activities carried out by children on the street.

*What measures are taken to reduce this phenomenon at your level?*

**ANSWER:**

Thank you for this question. It gives us the opportunity to denounce and decry this social ill that tends to persist in our society.

We would like to use this forum to remind you that the social protection of children is a collective responsibility which includes children themselves, parents, families, communities, civil society, the private sector, employers' and trade union organisations, the media, the government and the international community.

This is the reason why at the Ministry of Social Affairs, in addition to the assistance, protection, rehabilitation and reintegration measures implemented as response to the vulnerability of children via sensitisation, communication, education and social mobilisation.

Here comes the holiday. Many children are going to roam the streets of big cities, looking for small savings, thus putting their lives in danger and exposing themselves to all forms of exploitation or abuse, under the indifference of adults.

Yes!!! Unfortunately, we have noticed that, based on the pretext of precariousness, many heads of families who face difficulty with preparing their children for the start of the school year, send their

offspring into the street to do petty trade or other income generating activities such as washing or guarding cars. These expose them to the coronavirus and increase the risks of spreading this deadly infection, within the community.

We seize this opportunity to recall that, the place of children during holiday is at home, in the village, in a leisure camp or doing any other domestic, playful or educational activity conducive to their socialisation. Hawking, construction sites, industrial plantations, bars, warehouses found in markets or other places of exploitation for economic purposes and not where they belong.

A few years ago, we raised an alarm as concerns the proliferation of emerging social ills among youths particularly those in schools. We equally invited the entire national community to be vigilant and to keep a permanent social watch.

Last year, we sent an open letter to the community in general and to parents in particular on the protection of our children from the threat of Covid-19.

Recently, during the Children's Month that we experienced on the occasion of the Day of the African Child commemorated on June 16, an appeal for a real national coalition was launched against this issue that endangers children, the future of our nation. It was based on its disastrous consequences on the life and survival of our children as well as on the stability and equilibrium of our families and communities.

This morning, we reiterate this appeal for a general mobilisation against all forms of child exploitation. /-