The Government of Cameroon is launching a new tool for foreign investors: the eRegulations Cameroon portal. This online database brings total transparency to investment procedures.

While Cameroon is an attractive destination for foreign investors, the country is sometimes associated with cumbersome procedures and opaque bureaucracy.

Promoting transparency and simplification has moved up the political agenda in Cameroon. The action framework is now better developed thanks to innovative, consistent and converging initiatives.

The eRegulations Cameroon portal is an effective step and a hands-on tool for the government of Cameroon to increase the transparency, integrity and accountability of public agencies. It will help to ensure that national laws are applied consistently and to harmonize administrative practices across the country.

The portal reflects procedures from the user’s point of view, as they are actually applied in practice. Information has been collected through repeated field visits to all the administrations involved.

The 3 city websites combined show:

- **121** procedures
- **856** steps
- **569** forms and requirements
- **262** civil servants with contact data
- **101** legal bases

The Cameroun.eregulations.org portal gives access to step-by-step guides in 3 cities for the following procedures:

- Company creation
- Hiring
- Paying taxes
- Building permits
- Real estate
- Trading across borders

**A TOOL FOR TRANSPARENCY**

eRegulations Cameroon shows a large amount of information, collected by the Ministry of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises, Social Economy and Handicrafts.
PROCEDURES FROM THE USER’S POINT OF VIEW

Procedures are presented step-by-step, from the user’s point of view. Every necessary interaction with a civil servant is considered a step.

For each step, you can see the following:
- Entity/office/officer in charge
- Result of the step
- Requirements (forms and documents)
- Cost
- Duration (minimum and maximum)
- Legal justification
- Authority certifying that the step is correctly described
- Entity/office/officer in charge of attending complaints

STREAMLINING AND HARMONIZING THE ADMINISTRATIVE PRACTICE NATIONWIDE

The national portal allows comparisons of procedures among cities in terms of number of steps, entities involved, documents required, duration and cost. The comparison tool makes it easier to identify best practices, to detect unnecessary steps and requirements and to streamline and harmonize procedures.

TRANSPARENCY AND PUBLIC-PRIVATE DIALOGUE

eRegulations Cameroon promotes public awareness of rules and procedures and stimulates the public-private dialogue. Users can contact the officers in charge of procedures and also send complaints, report misconduct and propose simplification ideas through the system.

eRegulations Cameroon displays the name and contact details of all civil servants involved in the procedures and specifies for each step a recourse to whom the user may complain or address an inquiry. A way to strengthen the voice and participation of businesses in Cameroon’s transparency and simplification efforts.

A FIRST IN CENTRAL AFRICA

27 countries worldwide are using the eRegulations system to present information on business-related procedures. Cameroon is the first country in Central Africa to adopt eRegulations. Thanks to this effort, it is now among the best ranked in the Global Enterprise Registration portal (www.ger.co), which lists official business registration websites worldwide and rates each website’s user-friendliness.