

Ordre des Avocats au  
Barreau du Cameroun



Cameroon Bar  
Association

Conseil de l'Ordre

Bar Council

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*Le Bâtonnier de l'Ordre*

*The Bar President*

## COMMUNIQUE

For a couple of days now, a certain photograph, presumably taken in a private residence, portraying a Cameroonian political figure with some Advocates DRESSED IN THEIR ROBES has been circulating on social media networks.

This photograph, which the Bar President remains unaware of (contrary to what has been alleged by one newspaper), has incited many diverse reactions, requiring that the Cameroon Bar Association as an Institution addresses on matters concerning the wearing of the robe (or the professional attire in general) and the ambiguity that may surround the photograph in issue.

If on one hand, an Advocate, like every other Cameroonian citizen, must enjoy all the rights enshrined within the Constitution, including the right to belong to a political association of his choice, on the other hand, he belongs to a strictly regulated institution which compels him to fulfill certain duties arising from the rules, traditions and professional practices particularly the wearing of the robe which is our prime focus herein.

I am bound to state this bluntly: Advocates can and must only wear their robes on occasions enshrined within age old customs and traditions. Private residences or homes are not places where the Advocates professional attire can be worn openly, except under very exceptional circumstances, with the express and prior authorization of the Bar President or his duly appointed representative. However, such authorization was neither sought nor granted in this particular case.

The photograph in question desecrates the advocate's robe which remains a fundamental attribute and symbol of the profession of Advocacy - an incident which I reprove with extreme firmness.

Moreover, as I have previously indicated on several occasions, the Cameroon Bar Association is not a political party or association. In the same light, the Cameroon Bar, conscious and jealous of its independent status, has not and does not seek alliance or affiliation with any political entity whatsoever or with any political leader whatsoever.

The Cameroon Bar Association hereby reiterates its status and vocation: a professional institution as well as a wise and conscientious observer of society.



**The Bar President**  
**Barrister TCHAKOUTE PATIE Charles**

Yaounde, 18<sup>th</sup> October, 2019