



## EITD Research

### Research for Enterprise, Industries, Technology and Development

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# NEWS RELEASE

## ***EITD Research Revival of Justice and Judiciary Reform (RJJR) Programme – Begins Holding Judiciary Personnel to Account***

Kumba, Cameroon, September 23, 2009 – The EITD Research Revival of Justice and Judiciary Reform (RJJR) Programme begins holding judiciary personnel to account.

On Monday September 21, 2009, the RJJR Programme sent out a series of letters to some personnel of the Cameroon judiciary including the Minister of Justice, Minister Amadou Ali, the Presidents of the High Court and Court of First Instance in Kumba, Registrars in the said courts and learned sheriff bailiff.

The letters request the judiciary personnel to urgently address serious issues in the conduct of judiciary services business in their care with particular reference to the test case between Mr. Mbwoge Daniel Mbong and the National Water Corporation [Camerounaise Des Eaux (CDE)] before the courts in Kumba. The issues include unwarranted delays or documents and file hold ups; illegal payments/receipts of monies for some judiciary services; apparent ignoring of law and disregard of pertinent correspondences from litigants or the public.

Some of these issues have been highlighted before, as in the [October 2008 Public Policy Briefings of EITD Research](#) – which, illustrated challenges in the judicial system, sought clarifications from authorities, and called for debate on the role of the judiciary in efforts to get water and other vital utility services to everybody without delay. But response to the problems, especially from the authorities in charge, remains far from being substantive.

The lukewarm authority attitude is both illegal and jeopardising or failing to cultivate public trust in law. Many in Cameroon are so left to rely only on their own assessments of natural justice and have tended to vent their anger wastefully on streets, property or other people.

Even as Cameroon laws are evolving and far from being perfect, compliance with them also entails fairness and impartiality, balance and comprehensiveness. Efforts to live up to these standards are ongoing, but with contents, paces and scales that scarcely match the seriousness and urgency of challenges in the economy and society. Cameroon is lagging on its promise to achieve Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and failing to live up to the mandate of its Constitution.

**Hence the intervention of the EITD Research RJJR Programme, which aims to expedite achievement of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) with the view to helping Cameroon live up to the mandate of its Constitution, by using various political processes and public interest litigation to robustly engage the justice system and hold it to account continually.**

EITD Research is a private non-profit making non-governmental research and policy education institution with head quarters in Kumba, Cameroon, working on development issues related to technology, enterprise and industries since its founding in 1992.

EITD Research seeks solutions to pressing development concerns and assists society to take, with responsibility, opportunities offered by science in the use of technology for development via enterprise and industry. In addition to providing field services and technical support in resources management, EITD Research develops and circulates information on a wide range of issues, advocating strategies and making policy recommendations.

The EITD Research Revival of Justice and Judiciary Reform (RJJR) Programme website address is: [www.rjrr.eitdr.org](http://www.rjrr.eitdr.org).