



Australian Government
Refugee Review Tribunal

Country Advice

South Africa

South Africa – ZAF38337 – Restoration of Cameroon citizenship – Right of residency

25 February 2011

- 1. Would someone who gave up his Cameroon citizenship and became a national of South Africa be able to return to Cameroon and resurrect his original citizenship? Does he have a right to reside there temporarily or permanently?**

Cameroon law allows for restoration of citizenship. According to the Cameroon Nationality Code, “[r]estoration to Cameroon nationality shall be conferred by decree without condition of age or probation, but subject to necessity of proof that the applicant was formerly a Cameroonian and showing residence in Cameroon at the moment of restoration”.¹

According to DFAT advice from 2005, an applicant who has denounced Cameroonian citizenship will have to re-apply on the basis that they can prove they have denounced their citizenship. An applicant would have to apply to the Cameroonian Ministry of Justice, who would consider the application. If successful, the application would then be forwarded to the Delegation of National Security for execution.²

Cameroon law does not provide for dual citizenship. The Cameroon Nationality Code decrees Cameroon nationality is lost by “[a]ny Cameroon adult national who wilfully acquires or keeps a foreign nationality”. In order to restore Cameroon citizenship, one would be required to surrender any existing foreign citizenship.³

No specific information was found regarding former Cameroonian nationals returning whilst maintaining citizenship of another country. In 2005, an article in the *Cameroon Tribune* stated that the requirements for foreign nationals to obtain a residence permit included: a passport; a visa; a certificate of residence signed by a relevant authority; a certificate of non-conviction; payment of stamp duty; and a justification for the duration of the visit.⁴

¹ ‘Law No. 1968-LF-3 of the 11th June 1968 to set up the Cameroon Nationality Code [Cameroon]’ 1968, *Refworld*, 15 July, Chapter III D.28 <http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/docid/3ae6b4db1c.html> – accessed 24 February 2011 – Attachment 1

² DIMIA Country Information Service 2005, *Country Information Report No.05/54 – Cameroon: Citizenship resumption and mixed marriages*, (Sourced from DFAT advice of 27 September 2005), 27 September – Attachment 2

³ ‘Law No. 1968-LF-3 of the 11th June 1968 to set up the Cameroon Nationality Code [Cameroon]’ 1968, *Refworld*, 15 July, Chapter IV A.31 <http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/docid/3ae6b4db1c.html> – accessed 24 February 2011 – Attachment 1

⁴ ‘Cameroon: Residence Permit: What it Takes’ 2005, *All Africa* [source: *Cameroon Tribune*], 18 February <http://allafrica.com/stories/200502180466.html> – Accessed 25 February 2011 – Attachment 3

According to *Africa News*, foreigners in Cameroon are required to have a valid work permit from the Ministry of Employment and Vocational Training in order to work in the country. The Inspector General in the Ministry said that the acquisition of a residence permit by a foreigner in Cameroon is not a guarantee to work in Cameroon, and added “[o]nce a foreigner has regularised his/her stay in Cameroon, he/she must get a work permit from the employment ministry before he/she dares [sic] working”.⁵

Attachments

1. ‘Law No. 1968-LF-3 of the 11th June 1968 to set up the Cameroon Nationality Code [Cameroon]’ 1968, *Refworld*, 15 July <http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/docid/3ae6b4db1c.html> – accessed 24 February 2011.
2. DIMIA Country Information Service 2005, *Country Information Report No.05/54 – Cameroon: Citizenship resumption and mixed marriages* (Sourced from DFAT advice of 27 September 2005), 27 September. (CISNET Cameroon CX135763)
3. ‘Cameroon: Residence Permit: What it Takes’ 2005, All Africa [source: *Cameroon Tribune*], 18 February <http://allafrica.com/stories/200502180466.html> – Accessed 25 February 2011.
4. ‘Work permit foreigners Cameroon checked’ 2008, *Africa News*, 29 April http://www.africanews.com/site/Strict_check_work_permit_foreigners_in_Cameroon/list_messages/17863 – Accessed 24 February 2011.

⁵ ‘Work permit foreigners Cameroon checked’ 2008, *Africa News*, 29 April http://www.africanews.com/site/Strict_check_work_permit_foreigners_in_Cameroon/list_messages/17863 – Accessed 24 February 2011 – Attachment 4