



DAYS 41–50

EDUCATION

Building the Foundation for Cameroon's Future

No nation can achieve lasting prosperity without investing in the education of its people. Education is one of the most powerful tools for reducing poverty, creating opportunities, strengthening democracy, and driving economic growth. Every child deserves the opportunity to learn, regardless of where they are born or the financial circumstances of their family.

For many Cameroonian families, however, access to quality education remains a challenge. School fees, shortages of qualified teachers, outdated curricula, overcrowded classrooms, limited access to technology, and inadequate educational infrastructure continue to prevent many children from reaching their full potential.

During Days 41–50, the government will begin implementing reforms that lay the foundation for a modern, inclusive, and globally competitive education system. These reforms will ensure that education equips learners not only with academic knowledge but also with practical skills, critical thinking abilities, and the confidence to succeed in an increasingly digital and interconnected world.

1. Launch the Education Reform Commission

The President will establish an independent **Education Reform Commission** to conduct a comprehensive review of Cameroon's education system and develop recommendations for long-term reform.

The Commission will include:

- experienced teachers,
- school administrators,
- university leaders,
- education experts,
- representatives from technical and vocational institutions,
- private sector employers,
- parents,
- student representatives,
- civil society organizations,
- education technology specialists.

By bringing together people with diverse experiences, the Commission will ensure that reforms reflect the needs of students, families, educators, employers, and communities.

The Commission's work will focus on improving educational quality, increasing access, strengthening accountability, and preparing students for the demands of the modern workforce.

2. Prepare Legislation for Free Primary Education

Education should never be a privilege reserved for those who can afford it. Every child deserves the opportunity to attend school and receive a quality education regardless of their family's financial situation.

The government will begin drafting legislation that guarantees **free primary education** for all children in Cameroon.

This means that parents will no longer be required to pay tuition fees for children attending public primary schools. Removing these financial barriers will encourage higher school

enrollment, reduce dropout rates, and give children from low-income families a better chance of building successful futures.

However, providing free education also requires adequate planning. The government will ensure that schools receive the funding needed to maintain classrooms, provide learning materials, and support qualified teachers so that educational quality is not compromised.

Free primary education is an investment in the nation's future rather than simply an expense.

3. Prepare Legislation for Free Secondary Education

While primary education builds basic literacy and numeracy, secondary education equips young people with the knowledge and skills needed for employment, entrepreneurship, higher education, and active citizenship.

The government will therefore begin preparing legislation to gradually introduce **free secondary education** in public schools.

The objective is to ensure that students are not forced to abandon their education simply because their families cannot afford school fees.

Implementation may occur in phases, depending on available national resources, to ensure the program remains financially sustainable while maintaining high educational standards.

Expanding access to secondary education will create a better-trained workforce, reduce youth unemployment, and contribute to long-term economic development.

4. Curriculum Modernization

Many school curricula were designed decades ago and no longer reflect the skills students need in today's rapidly changing world.

The Education Reform Commission will conduct a comprehensive review of the national curriculum to ensure students receive a balanced education that prepares them for both employment and responsible citizenship.

The updated curriculum will place greater emphasis on:

- critical thinking,
- creativity,
- problem-solving,
- communication skills,
- financial literacy,
- entrepreneurship,
- environmental awareness,
- civic education,
- leadership,
- ethics,
- digital literacy.

Students should graduate with practical knowledge they can apply in everyday life, rather than relying solely on memorization for examinations.

A modern curriculum helps young people become adaptable, innovative, and competitive in both local and international job markets.

5. Expand STEM Education

Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) are driving innovation and economic growth across the world.

To prepare students for the industries of the future, the government will begin expanding STEM education throughout Cameroon.

This initiative will include:

- strengthening science laboratories,
- improving mathematics instruction,
- increasing access to computers,
- introducing coding and computer programming,
- supporting robotics clubs,
- expanding engineering education,
- promoting scientific research.

Special efforts will also encourage girls and young women to pursue careers in STEM fields by addressing barriers to participation and creating mentorship opportunities.

Developing a highly skilled STEM workforce will position Cameroon to compete in emerging industries such as artificial intelligence, renewable energy, biotechnology, advanced manufacturing, and information technology.

6. Strengthen Technical and Vocational Education

Not every student chooses to attend university, but every student deserves the opportunity to build a successful career.

Technical and vocational education provides practical training that prepares young people for skilled trades and growing industries.

The government will strengthen technical education by expanding programs in areas such as:

- construction,
- electrical installation,
- plumbing,
- welding,
- agriculture,
- automotive technology,
- information technology,
- hospitality,
- renewable energy,
- manufacturing.

Training programs will be developed in partnership with industry to ensure graduates possess the skills employers actually need.

This approach helps reduce unemployment while addressing shortages of skilled workers across the country.

Technical education will be promoted as an equally respected pathway alongside university education.

7. Teacher Recruitment Strategy

Teachers are the foundation of every successful education system. Even the best curriculum cannot succeed without well-trained, motivated, and adequately supported educators.

The government will begin developing a comprehensive **Teacher Recruitment Strategy** to address teacher shortages and improve educational quality across the country.

The strategy will identify current staffing gaps, predict future workforce needs, and ensure that schools in both urban and rural communities have access to qualified teachers.

Particular attention will be given to underserved communities where teacher shortages have been most severe.

Begin National Recruitment Planning

The Ministry of Education will immediately begin planning for the recruitment of additional teachers over the coming years.

Planning will include:

- identifying shortages by region,
- forecasting future enrollment,
- determining subject-area needs,
- expanding teacher training programs,
- improving recruitment procedures,
- strengthening teacher certification standards.

Recruitment will prioritize both quality and fairness, ensuring that appointments are based on qualifications and professional competence.

Improve Teacher Training

Recruiting more teachers is only part of the solution. Teachers must also receive high-quality preparation before entering the classroom.

Teacher training institutions will update their programs to include:

- modern teaching methods,
- classroom management,

- inclusive education,
- child development,
- digital technology,
- assessment techniques,
- student-centered learning.

Continuous professional development opportunities will also allow experienced teachers to update their skills throughout their careers.

A culture of lifelong learning among educators ultimately benefits students.

Improve Teacher Retention

Many education systems struggle not because they cannot recruit teachers, but because they cannot retain them.

The government will examine ways to improve teacher retention through:

- better working conditions,
- timely payment of salaries,
- opportunities for career advancement,
- professional recognition,
- ongoing training,
- improved housing in remote communities where appropriate.

Supporting teachers strengthens the entire education system.

8. Launch the Digital Classroom Initiative

Technology has transformed education across the world. Digital learning tools can expand access to information, improve teaching quality, and prepare students for careers in a technology-driven economy.

The government will launch the **Digital Classroom Initiative** to begin integrating technology into public education.

Implementation will begin with pilot projects before expanding nationwide based on lessons learned.

Pilot Smart Classrooms

Selected schools across different regions will be equipped with **smart classrooms** featuring modern educational technology.

These classrooms may include:

- interactive digital boards,
- computers or tablets,
- multimedia teaching resources,
- projectors,
- educational software,
- digital learning platforms.

Teachers will be able to deliver more engaging lessons while students gain hands-on experience using technology.

Pilot projects will help identify best practices before national expansion.

Expand Internet Access in Schools

Reliable internet access has become an essential educational resource.

The government will work with telecommunications providers and development partners to improve internet connectivity in schools participating in the Digital Classroom Initiative.

Internet access enables students and teachers to:

- conduct research,
- access digital textbooks,
- participate in online learning,
- communicate with educational institutions,
- collaborate with peers,
- develop essential digital skills.

Where internet infrastructure is limited, offline digital learning resources will also be explored to ensure no community is left behind.

Teacher Technology Training

Technology is only effective when educators know how to use it confidently.

Every school participating in the pilot program will receive dedicated teacher training on integrating digital tools into classroom instruction.

Training will cover:

- basic computer skills,
- educational software,
- online teaching resources,
- digital lesson planning,
- responsible internet use,
- cybersecurity awareness,
- using technology to support students with different learning needs.

The goal is not to replace teachers with technology, but to empower teachers with tools that make learning more engaging, interactive, and effective.

Expected Outcomes

By the end of the first 50 days, the government will have taken the first concrete steps toward transforming Cameroon's education system into one that is accessible, equitable, and future-focused. Through the Education Reform Commission, legislation for free primary and secondary education, curriculum modernization, expanded STEM and technical training, strategic teacher recruitment, and the Digital Classroom Initiative, the administration will begin building an education system that prepares every child not only to pass examinations but to contribute meaningfully to the nation's economic growth, innovation, and long-term development. Education will no longer be viewed simply as schooling—it will be recognized as the cornerstone of building a stronger, more prosperous Cameroon.