



## DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO



### **Directorate of Civil Defence** (*Direction de la Protection Civile*)

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#### **1. Legislation :**

- Decision no 027/IG/PNC/98 of 16 February 1998.

#### **2. Mission :**

Whenever there are fires, disasters or when the safety of the environment is threatened, the Directorate of Civil Defence (DPC), alerts the population about the risks, organizes relief, coordinates these operations and undertakes searches in the framework of cooperation and international solidarity. It directs the protection of children, women and old people.

- It elaborates and sees to the implementation of strategies and dynamic plans of action for a general control and management of disasters that have occurred or may occur in the Congo;
- -It organizes, carries out and coordinates relief and search operations in an international framework of cooperation and solidarity during disasters;
- It prevents and fights fires by controlling the construction of buildings and by taking all the necessary measures to combat fires in buildings, high voltage huts, entertainment halls, exhibition buildings, office buildings or commercial centres and in establishments visited by the public;
- It combats fires in private houses, factories, vehicles, ships and planes;
- It regularly controls SNEL and REGIDESO installations and plans the ways and the means for rapid intervention against fire and sabotage;
- It ensures the surveillance and continuous verification of anti-fire arrangements and salubrity measures taken by the different enterprises that are responsible for an important section of the population;

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- It advises political/administrative authorities on clearing brushwood, removing wastes, forest management, on the safety of paths open to public traffic;
- It organizes the Fire-Brigade Corps down to the levels of the communes and territories;
- It organizes vocational training courses, as well as training for populations exposed to disasters, as a measure for prevention and emergency actions to avoid massive loss of human lives;
- It proposes all necessary actions for prevention, intervention, recovery and construction in case of disasters;
- It defines the broad options, priorities and strategies for development in the civil defence sector;
- It establishes the list and territorial competence of the category of public or private establishments defined to be disaster-risk zones;
- It acquires all technical, logistical and other types of support from national and international organizations (IFRS, OIPC, WHO, WMO, FAO, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, ICRC, OCHA, NGOs) that may be of assistance in prevention, population education in case of natural or man-made disasters;
- It ensures the application of laws relating to children;
- In collaboration with specialized organizations, it combats and eliminates the causes of juvenile delinquency to protect the child from all types of ill treatment that will stifle its development. Children are entitled to a decent way of life so as to be totally integrated in the community;
- It facilitates good relationships between the authority and the child by preparing the latter to be realistic, reasonable, productive and by overcoming its impression of neglect and abandon;
- It protects women in their daily lives so that they set their hearts on their responsibilities as mothers or future mothers they contribute to the integral progress of the Congolese society;
- It opens offices - counseling bureau with midwives who will receive and discreetly listen to women in difficulty or with problems to guide them to possible solutions;
- In collaboration with specialized organizations, it combats the ill-treatment or degrading exploitation of women;
- It initiates the elaboration of laws for the welfare of the elderly, the poor and the mentally handicapped;
- It ensures the implementation of measures regarding the welfare of abandoned old people and, with specialized organizations, implements measures to safeguard their survival;
- It drafts periodical and circumstantial reports regarding civil defence and establishes statistics;
- It handles manpower management in civil defence units;
- It administrates the civil defence accountancy;

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- It maintains permanent contact with national and international organizations specialized in civil defence;
- It identifies victims, refugees and displaced persons;
- In collaboration with the Red Cross, it takes stock of the dead and wounded during armed conflicts;
- It proposes different interventions that the State might undertake to protect towns from floods and certain types of landslides;
- It encourages the population to resist enemy reprisals;
- In collaboration with the Presidential Service for strategic reserves, it submits proposals for the organization of shelters;
- It studies the economic and socio-cultural potential of the country and sets up a data bank of national and international strategies;
- It keeps a national and international directory of NGOs related to civil defence;
- It initiates conferences and seminars on civil defence;
- It plans short and long-term emergency measures for civil defence;
- It monitors the correct management of equipment.

### **3. Regulation and procedure :**

The Civil Defence General Management is a structure set up within the National Police and under the tutelage of the Ministry of Interior Affairs.

### **4. Organization :**

The Directorate of Civil Defence operates under the responsibility of a Director General who is accountable for its good functioning.

At the central level, the DPC is composed of three Directorates, namely:

- *the General Services Division*: It is in charge of the administrative, financial and logistic management of the DGPC under the authority of the Director General.
- *the Training Division*: it handles the vocational training of executives and agents of the DGPC and organizes regular refresher courses. It organizes specialized training courses according to the disciplines chosen by the Director General and ensures the daily management of the library and documentation centre.
- *the Technical Services Division*: it manages prevention activities and interventions operations in all that concerns disasters and the protection of the environment. It makes certain the legislation in force regarding the prevention of fires is respected and applied. It monitors the behaviour of the population during fires, natural or accidental disasters. It sees to the protection of children, women and old people.

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### At the local level:

*The Provincial Directorate* is located in the county seat of the province and directed by an official who has the rank of director.

Mutatis mutandis, its structure follows that of the Directorate Division It functions in accordance with and within the limitations of the prerogatives conferred on it by the Director General.

The Provincial Civil Defence Management includes a director of the province and an assistant director.

The Provincial Director coordinates the activities of the establishment and reports to the Director General. He is the principal animator of the general and technical services at the level of the province.

### **5. Staff :**

Civil defence units are spread out so as to be permanently ready to intervene throughout the national territory during natural disasters (floods, earthquakes...), man-made disasters (train, air, road, waterways fires....), and are ready to be involved in searches on land or water (assassinations, drowning, disappearances, collapse of buildings...).

Other specialists may be requisitioned on the spot and are remunerated according to an amount established by the Ministry of the Interior.

### **6. Equipment/appliances :**

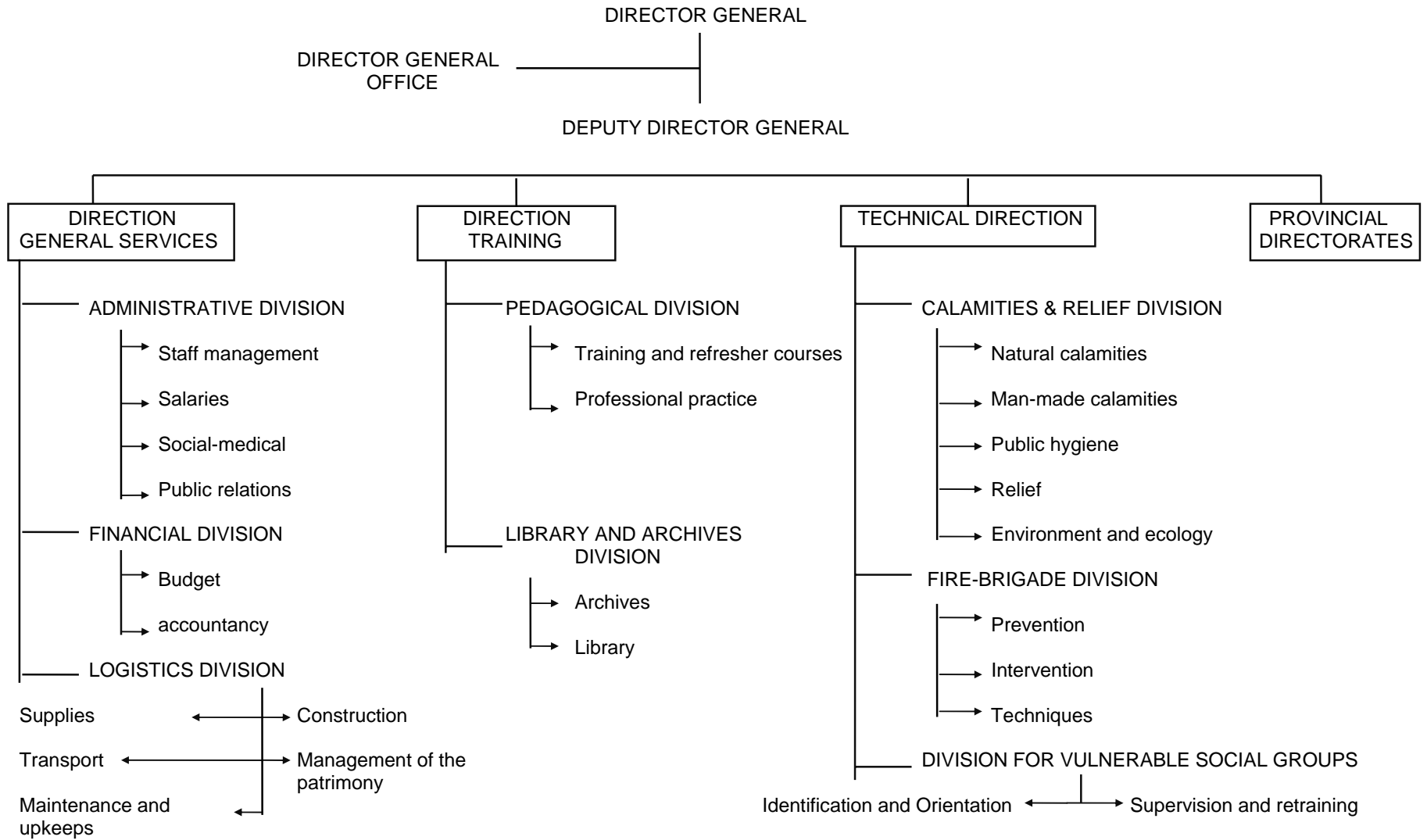
Telecommunications, intervention vehicles, lorries, tip-lorries, civil engineering vehicles, trucks to carry machines, helicopters, diving equipment, power plants, lighting equipment, motor-pumps, various types of tools.

Some types of equipment may be provided by the Roads Bureau, the VD, the Army and by private companies against payment.

### **7. Finances :**

The Civil Defence Directorate benefits from the fifty percent of income realized for its functioning, equipment, sustainable investment and implementation of various projects to improve its performances.

# ORGANIZATIONAL CHART OF THE CIVIL DEFENCE GENERAL MANAGEMENT OF THE CONGO



**Mr. Jean KITAMBALA**

**Director of Civil Defence**