**The battle for votes:**

In the political landscape of Cameroon, the CPDM and the SDF are two two dominant parties that often compete for political dominance during elections. As the 2025 elections approaches, CPDM, the ruling party traditionally leverages its vast resources and established network, while the SDF which is the main opposition party within the political arena in Cameroon focuses on grassroots mobilization and addressing socio-economic grievances.

As elections approaches, both parties faces a strategic delimma on how to allocate their campaign efforts between Urban areas, where a higher concentration of voters and media exist, and Rural Areas, where significant portion of the electorate resides but is often undeserved. The decision each party makes not only affects its own electoral outcomes but also determines how competitive the elections will be.

**Strategies for CPDM and SDF**

**1. Focus on Urban Areas (U)**

**2. Focus on Rural Areas ( R)**

**Payoffs**

The Payoffs are determined by the percentage of votes each party wins.

**Payoff matrix:**

The values represents the percentage of votes each party receives;

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| CPDM / SDF | Focus on Urban (U) | Focus on Rural (R) |
| Focus on Urban (U) | 45% , 45% | 55% , 40% |
| Focus on Rural (R) | 40% , 55% | 50% , 50% |

**Analysis :**

**1) Strategies:** Each each party must decide how to allocate resources

* if both focus on urban areas ( U, U): The vote splits evenly because neither gains a significant vote.
* If one party focuses on urban and the other on rural (U , R or R ,U ): The party focusing on urban areas gains a higher share of the vote due to a denser population.
* If both parties focuse on the rural areas ( R , R ): The votes splits evenly again as neither gains dominance.

**2) Dominant Strategy:**

* For CPDM, Urban is the dominant strategy.
* For SDF , Rural is the dominant strategy.

**3) Zero-Sum Game:**

The above gave in not a zero sum game since the sum of payoffs varies and since one party’s gain is not always the other’s loss.

**4) Nash Equilibrium:**

At the point where:

* CPDM gains 55% of the vote by focusing on Urban (U) and cannot improve its payoff by switching to Rural (R ).
* SDF gains 40% of the votes by focusing on Rural (R ) and cannot improve it payoff by switching to Urban (U).

Thus, neither party has an incentive to change its strategy, making ( 55%, 40%) the Nash Equilibrium