

**The Governor of the North Region,
Distinguished men and women of the media,
Ladies and Gentlemen**

We will like to begin this conference with expression of our sincere thanks to the Governor of the North Region, for all the measures he took to ensure a successful stay and work of the CONAC team.

We would also like to thank the **Procureur General** of the North Region Court of Appeal for successively assigning to CONAC two of his collaborators and **Judicial Police Officers** who worked with our teams on the field.

The two **Deputy State Counsels** and the **Forces of Law and Order** assigned to assist us were professional and very productive on the field.

We would also like to thank the **Mayor of the City of Garoua** for generously granting us this magnificent facility for one whole week, as well as his collaborators, the **Secretary General of the Garoua City Council** and staff, who provided us with daily assistance.

Dear **media women and men**, we thank you because through you, the population of the North Region was informed of our presence in the Region and this enabled them to get into direct contact with the Clinic.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This press conference concludes CONAC's activities within the Anti-Corruption Clinic in the North Region, the fifth Clinic to be organised by CONAC since 2023.

The Anti-Corruption Clinic is a purely repressive activity of CONAC which seeks to:

- draw the institution closer to the public;
- encourage whistle-blowing;

- ensure that evidence is gathered over a given period of time, in a specific Region; and
- refer suspects to Court when they are arrested in *flagrante delicto*.

The Anti-Corruption Clinic in the North Region, therefore, enabled CONAC to:

- treat all pending files pertaining to this Region;
- receive and treat new cases;
- arraign, in Court, persons caught in flagrante delicto; and
- gather information that will help move forward the fight against corruption in Cameroon.

The Clinic began in the early hours of Monday, 18th November, 2024, with 17 denunciations of acts of corruption concerning the North Region and pending at CONAC.

In addition to these, 23 denunciations were received through CONAC's various denunciation channels, as follows:

- 12 through the WhatsApp number, 658 26 26 82;
- 06 through the email address, info@conac.cm; and
- 05 denunciations submitted by persons who came over to the seat of the Anti-Corruption Clinic located in this auditorium of the Garoua City Council.

CONAC, on its own initiative, also handled three cases of corruption identified on the public highway.

In all, 43 denunciations were processed during this Anti-Corruption Clinic designed for the North Region.

Ladies and gentlemen, dear journalists,

Some of the most denounced sectors during this Clinic include:

- **Basic Education**, for corruption and misappropriation of school running costs, minimum packages, bribery for appointments, collection of exorbitant fees for official examinations, etc.

- **Secondary Education** for corrupt practices in the enrolment of students in some High Schools, collection of PTA levies exceeding the

maximum amount set by the Minister of Secondary Education, misappropriation of PTA levies, and collection of illegal charges for official examinations, especially those organised by Office du Baccalauréat.

- **Higher Education**, with reports of cases of fake diplomas;
- **State Property and Land Tenure**, for illegal and organised sales of certain public and/or private State land in Garoua;
- **Finance** for the collection of between 6% and 15% of salary arrears for staff recruited in certain public structures, and for requesting 'commissions' from service providers as condition for payment;
- **FLO**, for using civilian staff, especially children of school-going ages, at checkpoints, and for extorting road users;
- **The Police**, for acts of extortion perpetrated by some officers who charge fees when signing identification documents, even for declarations of loss;
- **Regional and Local Authorities**, for non-payment of service providers;
- **The Judiciary**, for unfair judgments;
- **Customs, Taxation and Veterinary Services**, for collecting illegal taxes in cattle markets;
- **Agriculture**, for extortion of farmers by employees of MINADER who request for money before giving them donations of fertiliser;
- **the Private Sector**, for unfair dismissals; and
- **Traditional authorities**, for abuse of office and torture;

Similarly, ordinary citizens were denounced for acts such as:

- usurpation of the office of Chairman of CONAC and Governor of BEAC;
- usurpation of the qualification of CONAC staff member in the Northern Regions; and
- fabrication of fake diplomas from Cameroon and Chad.

Our teams of investigators were deployed to the field to gather evidence and shed light on each of these cases. Every denunciation remains an allegation of suspicion until it is confirmed or refuted by evidence.

CONAC teams worked in the following localities in the North Region:

- Garoua I, II, III, Pitoa and Demsa Sub-divisions in Benoué Division;
- Guider and Figuil in Mayo Louti Division; and
- Touboro in Mayo Rey Division.

Most of the denunciations were substantiated, that is, an act of corruption or a corruption-related offence was actually committed.

After five days of intense work, we achieved the following results:

1. Six people were arrested and referred to Court.

They are:

- **Mr MAOUNDE HAMASSEO**, Principal of Lycée Classique et Moderne, Garoua. He was referred to Court on charges of active corruption and misappropriation of funds to the detriment of private individuals in complicity with **Mr ABDOULAYE KOUE KAMI** and **Mrs. AMINATOU MOUSSA ALADJI**, Secretaries of the Principal.
- **Mr. FAWA**, former Bursar of Government High School, Dolla in Pitoa Sub-division, for misappropriation of public funds.
- **Mr BOUBAKARY HARY**, Pitoa Sub-divisional Inspector of Basic Education, for misappropriation of public funds, committed while he was Sub-divisional Inspector of Basic Education in Garoua 1. He was referred to Court for misappropriation of public property to the tune of CFAF 5.5 million from the 2023 Public Investment Budget, intended for the acquisition of computer and office equipment.
- **Mr. ABDOULAYE OUMAROU**, arrested in Touboro for usurpation of the qualification of CONAC staff member, corruption and influence peddling.

2. Some investigations were concluded and recommendations made to relevant authorities for administrative sanctions, and legal proceedings.

- The case of the Treasurer of Touboro for abandoning his post and demanding payment of 'commissions' before paying service providers.
- The case of **Mr. Mahamadou Brahim** and **Mr. Mininamou Golo Yannick**, currently in Garoua Prison, for having forged Cameroonian diplomas for two people recruited in SODECOTON as temporary workers. Since the case is under judicial investigation, CONAC waived its jurisdiction pending the outcome of the legal proceedings.
- Illegal sale of some public and/or private State land in Garoua by a gang organised around MINDCAF. This case is partially substantiated considering reports from the field verifications and the exploitation of documents received from the MINDCAF Regional Delegation of the North.
- The allegation of collection of between 6% and 15% of staff salary arrears at certain payment points was substantiated. However, further investigation is required due to the complexity of the facts.
- CONAC will refer the matter to the various authorities in charge of security on the public highway in order to formally prohibit the use of civilians, especially youths, at road checkpoints and to impose deterrent sanctions on officials who violate this measure or engage in corrupt practices at their checkpoints.

3. Some complaints are still being investigated. CONAC has requested information from certain authorities and is expecting their response.

Such include cases of fake diplomas used by a journalist. CONAC is awaiting the outcome of the investigations to enable it to make a statement on this matter.

The case of increase in costs of procedures by the North Regional Delegation of MINDCAF. We are going to carry out in-depth investigations to establish the responsibilities of those involved.

In addition, the relevant authorities have been contacted by correspondence in order to unmask people who are posing as Chairman of CONAC and Governor of BEAC to extort money from Cameroonians.

4. Cases pending before the courts or not within the competence of CONAC were forwarded to the administrations concerned.

This is the case of unfair dismissals by PRIME PROTOMAC Cameroun SA. The issue in question was the non-execution of a final court decision ordering the company in question to pay rights to its former employees. CONAC lacks jurisdiction in accordance with its constituting text.

As the case of abuse of power and torture by a Traditional Authority did not fall within the competence of CONAC, the Institution referred the matter to MINAT and the National Human Rights Commission of Cameroon.

Nevertheless, we would like to point out that some of the complaints were not resolved due to lack of details. One such case was the report of widespread corruption in Government Secondary and High Schools during the enrolment process for the new 2024-2025 school year.

We remind everyone to be precise and clear when reporting corruption, and to give us as much detail as possible about the acts as well as people involved.

CONAC wishes to point out that those who make malicious accusations are liable to prosecution, as stipulated in article 3(3) of the Institution's constituting text, which states that:

“The Commission shall be bound to protect its sources of information. Provided that, where the malicious intent of the informer is established, the Commission shall disclose the source concerned at the behest of the court.”

During these five days, CONAC also noted a large number of anonymous complaints. This did not, however, prevent us from finding a solution to the problem denounced.

We would like to thank all those who decided to break the chain of corruption by reporting even anonymously. And as we have just said, CONAC has an obligation to protect its informants acting in good faith.

Some people will wonder whether CONAC will wait for another 'Anti-Corruption Clinic' to carry out such repressive activities in the city of Garoua.

To this we say 'no'.

CONAC is permanently on the field. We will also ensure that Court decisions are enforced in accordance with the provisions of the Penal Code.

Sanctioning acts of corruption remains one of the best ways of preventing corruption, as it serves as a concrete deterrent for the corrupt.

Ladies and gentlemen of the press,

This is an opportunity for us to remind you that you are the fourth power, with the capacity to expose acts of corruption occurring around you. We urge you to take this task seriously and to be anti-corruption watchdogs in this Region. We reassure you that CONAC exploits the denunciations made by the media, thanks to its daily press reviews.

As regards denunciations received during this Anti-Corruption Clinic which require in-depth investigations, CONAC will endeavour, even beyond

the Anti-Corruption Clinic, to conclude the relevant investigations, so that the truth may be established and the culprits identified.

Dear Governor,

Ladies and gentlemen of the press,

This is an opportunity for us to call on all Cameroonians to be active participants in the anti-corruption drive, wherever they may be, by adopting integrity as a way of life and by denouncing any act of corruption they witness or are victims of to CONAC.

In this way, we will succeed in making Cameroon an honest and prosperous country, as the President of the Republic wishes, for the well-being of all.

We would like to thank the people of the North Region once again.

Thank you, Mr. Governor, for your commitment to the fight against corruption.

We hope that after CONAC's visit, the North Region will intensify the fight against corruption by rejecting this scourge which is the root cause of our underdevelopment, as instructed by the Head of State, His Excellency Paul BIYA, President of the Republic, in his speech to the Nation on 31st December, 2023.

Thank you for your keen attention.