

MOUVEMENT POUR
LA RENAISSANCE
DU CAMEROUN



CAMEROON
RENAISSANCE
MOVEMENT

AUTORISATION MINATD N°000221 DU 25 JUILLET 2008/ LETTRE MINATD N°0002249/LMINATD/DAP/SDE/STP DU 02 AOÛT 2012

STATEMENT FROM THE CAMEROON RENAISSANCE MOVEMENT ON THE FOOD CRISIS IN THE ADAMAOUA, THE NORTH AND THE FAR NORTH REGIONS

Since 2022, when the Cameroon Renaissance Movement (CRM) has denounced the unending rise in prices in the country without any adequate response from the Government, the situation of the populations of the Adamaoua, the North and the Far North regions has been most precarious.

In the Far North, agricultural production is hit by a lack of water during periods of drought, or the destruction of crops during floods. This situation generates or aggravates the conflicts between breeders and farmers which we also see in the two other regions of the North, resulting in numerous human victims as in August 2021 during the clashes over access to water between the Mousgoums and Arab Choas communities in the Logone and Chari. It is deplorable that the Government is not providing appropriate and lasting responses to this cyclical crisis, the causes and consequences of which we know well, but seems to be concerned about these populations only when elections are out.

The prices of cereals, particularly corn, millet and rice, the main food of the populations concerned, have continued to rise since 2022. Thus, the 120 kg bag of corn reached FCFA 38,000, an increase of FCFA 8,000 compared to the month of July 2023, the bag of millet is around FCFA 35,000 instead of FCFA 26,000 in the same month, an increase of FCFA 9,000. The bag of imported rice costs on average FCFA 24,000 instead of FCFA 22,000 a month ago, while the bag of local rice oscillates between FCFA 11,000 and FCFA 12,000.

This sudden increase in the prices of the main cereals exposes these populations, who cannot afford those cereals and who are among the poorest in the country, to bad nutrition and famine, directly impacting their meager rural activities and the already fragile social balance in this part of the country. our country, particularly in the Far North Region, officially declared an “economically depressed region”. In addition, it exposes the educational community to almost

insurmountable challenges during this back-to-school period.

According to figures from the Ministry of Agriculture presented last May, 11% of the national population is currently in a situation of “acute food insecurity”. This corresponds to more than three million Cameroonians across the country. I remind you that there is "acute food insecurity" when, in order to buy food, families must resort to extreme solutions with lasting consequences, such as selling their goods, taking on additional work or giving up sending a child to school. 335,000 Cameroonians are considered to be in an emergency phase, because they barely eat one meal a day and are malnourished with a harmful impact on their health.

This dark reality is both incomprehensible and unacceptable in a country like ours which is not deprived of resources. It undoubtedly constitutes an aggravating factor in social disruption, with dramatic consequences, particularly on security issues.

If the regional assemblies and executives are not able to take care of the populations, if they cannot face situations which should be at the forefront of their mission, let them have the courage to inform these populations that they are of no use, because they are nothing other than institutional illusions.

The CRM expresses its sympathy to the populations affected by the food crisis in our country, particularly in the regions of Adamaoua, the North and the Far North.

The CRM is saddened by this state of affairs and urges the Government to take all its 2 responsibilities, on the one hand, to implement emergency food measures in order to relieve the distress of our compatriots who are suffering in their flesh, on the other hand, to carry out a complete and exhaustive assessment of the situation in order to provide an appropriate and lasting response. We owe it to our most deprived populations and our country has the means.

Yaoundé, the 16th September 2023

Maurice KAMTO

The National President