

MAROUA REPORT

FRANCOPHONE WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR CHRISTIAN AND MUSLIM RELIGIOUS LEADERS ON PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT

Maroua, Cameroon 6th - 10th January 2013

1.3 Conference Rationale by the General Adviser of PROCMURA,

Rev. Dr. Johnson A. Mbillah

In his introductory remarks Dr. Johnson Mbillah said that PROCMURA decided to invite Christian and Muslim religious leaders from Central and West Africa who share a common language (French) and a largely common geographical feature (Sahel), to provide them with the opportunity to work on how to promote peace in the society, and peaceful co-existence between Christians and Muslims towards development.

The choice of Cameroon and of the northern town of Maroua, he said, was as a result of constant request by the Rev. Robert Goyek for several years, that PROCMURA organise a conference of this nature in Maroua. Rev. Goyek's commitment encouraged PROCMURA to invite him and Sheikh El Hadj Hamadou Banoufé to a PROCMURA Christian and Muslim religious conference on peace and development which was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in January 2012. It was at this conference that discussions were held on the possibility of organising such a conference, the fruits of which are being experiencing today.

The choice of countries which depicted a mix variety of wealth of experiences some of which may be unique and peculiar to any given country, would stimulate sharing across the regions and the different countries represented and help produce a broader impact on participants across the religious divide. The General Adviser lamented that contacts with Cote d'Ivoire where PROCMURA had been very active for many years now had not led to their participation, perhaps because of the unstable political situation in the country at that point in time.

After these remarks the General Adviser then proceeded to ask that the concept paper be directly read in French to avoid the simultaneous interpretation of the document which would eat into the time. For details of the concept paper

[See Appendix III. Maroua Conference, Concept paper]