

A.C. ORGANIZATION ACTIVITY REPORT OF FEBRUARY 09



I- HIGHLIGHTS

- **Two interviews were conducted by AC Director with a view to increasing AC human resources.**
- **The hotline witnessed a close to 200% increase in calls: from 34 in January to 249 in February. This was due to the launching of the AC. Hotline number over CRTV News Bar and the increase of AC information brochures pasted and distributed in Yaoundé.**
- **AC made contacts with some Christian churches in Yaounde with the goal of getting direct contact with more victims of corruption.**

II- INVESTIGATIONS

- **15 field investigations were carried out in the town of Yaounde: 02 at the National Police High School; 07 at the Yaounde Central Hospital; 02 at the Administrative Centre; 02 at the Soa Police Station and 02 at the Mokolo market.**

In the course of the investigations, two cases of corruption were noted:

- One at the National Police High School
- One at the Soa Police Station where police officers charged with issuing certificates of height were collecting 2000 cfa Frs. instead of the authorized 1000 cfa Frs.

- **There were 249 calls on the hotline of AC:**
- **185** responded to AC call-back or follow up.
 - 20 calls were victims of corruption,
 - 5 were on extortion,
 - 12 reporting abuses suffered at Police and Gendarmerie Stations,
 - 15 were reporting cases over land disputes,
 - 11 were reporting problems of abusive lay offs,
 - 49 called to verify the actuality of the number,
 - 7 called to encourage the work of AC,
 - 4 called to request for legal counselling,
 - 2 called seeking for financial assistance,
 - 26 calls could not be traced because they used the public telephone booths.
- **84** calls could not be traced because the persons would not pick up AC return calls.
- **Observation:** Very many victims who called had already implicated themselves by indulging in corrupt acts with those they accuse; Some of the corruption-related complaints were not covered by Article 134 of the Cameroon Penal Code (they fall within the private sector); other victims after AC preliminary investigations preferred out-of court settlements; Some good cases presented to

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AC could no longer be granted hearing in court because the 3-year period allowed by law for a complaint to be filed by a victim expired; lastly, some victims called only to confirm the functioning of the hotline number.

- **Recommendation:** There is the urgent need to review Cameroon's Anti-corruption legislation and more sensitization of victims.
- **291** AC information brochures were pasted at 10 different locations in Yaounde: the Court of Appeal, the Taxation Office at Omnisports, CNPS, the ministries of Public Health, Finances, Culture, Trade Education, Higher Education, Transport, Public Service, the National Gendarmerie, the Directorate of Customs, the University Residential Area and at Château.
- **158** more AC information brochures were distributed directly at the Yaounde Administrative Centre, the Mokolo Market and that of Ekounou.
- **6** meetings were held with ADDEC in order to identify willing victims who could testify to the Examining Magistrate in the case of ADDEC versus the Director of ASMAC.
- **Observations** during the field investigations:
 - At the Court of Appeal premises, most of the AC information brochures were removed.
 - Business persons complained that the taxation/price controllers present themselves without any identification and without mission orders.
 - These traders feigned ignorance about their obligations and often corrupted the taxation and price control officials from the Taxation Department and from the Councils only to complain later on.

III- LEGAL

- There were **6** encounters with Lawyer Ngongang, a Bailiff in Yaounde in order to make arrangements for a *constatation* at the Yaounde Central Hospital where AC was helping victims to get a court case.
- There was a follow up of the ACDIC Case at the Yaounde Court of First Instance where ACDIC director was standing trial for "Holding an Illegal Meeting" following his publication of a report on alleged corruption in the "Maize Project".
- There was a meeting with the ADDEC Lawyer to discuss the state of the case in court against the Director of ASMAC whom AC/ADDEC filed a corruption case against since June 2008.

IV- MEDIA

- AC held **3** meetings with the SKY ONE RADIO during which 21 Letters of Complaint from the public were carefully studied but no case of corruption was discovered.
- The AC Coordinator and an AC Lawyer were guests over the CRTV early morning Programme called Morning SAFARI. The objective was to sensitize the public on the AC Hotline, the AC News Bar and on the mechanisms put in place by AC to help victims combat corruption in Cameroon.

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V- HUMAN RESOURCES

- **2** applicants were interviewed by the AC Director in view of increasing AC manpower.

VI- RELATION WITH OTHER INSTITUTIONS

- AC took part in a Workshop organized by the National Commission on Human Rights and Liberties. (NCHRL). AC objective at this workshop was to establish contact with invited NGOs and Associations as a means of recruiting victims of corruption via their associations.
- **3** meetings were held with some Church leaders with the goal of presenting the goals and objectives of AC. This was a pilot phase of a project to use the churches as a medium of recruiting victims of corruption.
- **18 Letters** signed by the AC Director were sent to 18 church communities in Yaounde. The letters contained information on AC activities and especially AC Free Legal Assistance to victims of corruption.

VII- RELATION WITH OTHER NGOs

- **6** meetings were held with ADDEC in order to identify willing victims who could testify to the Examining Magistrate in the case of ADDEC versus the Director of ASMAC.

VIII- MANAGEMENT

- **2** working sessions were held between AC Director and Coordinator on personnel management and on how to take AC forward especially getting court cases.

IX- FINANCE**The expenditure of A.C. Organization by budgetary heading in February 09**

Amount FCFA	Item	Details	USD amount
210 900	Investigation	15 investigations and 317 calls on Hotline Phone	\$ 409,5
234 600	Legal	6 meetings with Lawyers and one with a Bailiff	\$ 455,5
30 000	Media	3 meetings with a private radio, one on National TV	\$ 58,3
270 800	Management	Coordinator took part in field investigations	\$ 525,8
101 150	Office	Office consumables	\$ 196,4
847 450	Total Expenditure February		\$ 1 645,5

Total expenditure by giver for the month of February 09

Amount FCFA	Donor	Amount USD
341 950	British High Commission	\$ 664,0
505 500	Dutch Embassy	\$ 981,6
847 450	TOTAL	\$ 1 645,6

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