

Anti-corruption Organisation A.C. Activity Report of June 2009



I- HIGHLIGHTS

- **A.C. Director recruited two trainee volunteers. One was dismissed after three weeks of trial; due to the non-respect of cherished AC values such as truthfulness, honesty and duty consciousness. A third candidate on the waiting list was called in for a testing period of one month.**
- **The month saw field investigations to several parts of Yaounde almost on a daily basis. The intensification of the investigations led to the recruitment of six good cases of corruption.**
- **A.C. had two meetings with the National Trade Union of Cameroon Urban and Inter-Urban Transporters (SYNACTUICAM). The Trade Unionists had contacted AC to solicit legal assistance on how to stamp out corruption in the transport sector after the government body (CONAC) failed them.**
- **There was a huge increase in the number of posters and brochures distributed: 1562 brochures and 340 posters were pasted. This increase corresponds to the increase in the number of investigations and locations.**
- **The AC public information on the National TV news bar was very regular leading to many calls.**

II- INVESTIGATIONS

- **43 investigations were conducted in the capital city of Yaounde by the Coordinator, Legal Assistant and the Trainee Volunteers.**
 - 7 were at the Legal Department and the Court premises
 - 7 at the Ministry of Basic Education
 - 4 at the Ministry of Finance
 - 4 at the Ministry of Public Service
 - 2 at the Delegation of Education
 - 2 at CAMTEL
 - 2 at the Ministry of Higher Education
 - 1 at Immeuble Rose (hosting Three Ministries)
 - 1 at the Public Works Ministry
 - 1 at the Referral Hospital
 - 1 at the General Hospital
 - 1 at the Central Hospital
 - The rest at the following markets: Mokolo, Etoudi, New Melen, Elig-Edzoa, Acacia, Mvog-Mbi, Nsam, and Ekounou.

NB: See details before III.

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AC Hotline and Emails.**Hotline**

538 In-coming calls from victims.

271 Out-going calls from AC to victims, representing 50, 38%.

267 Failed attempts to reach victims by AC representing 49, 62%.

Sex ratio:

81 females called

190 males called

Language ratio:

24 English

245 French

1 Spanish

1 Fofoulbe

Geographical distribution:**1. Cameroon**

71 Centre

55 Littoral

20 Adamawa

20 South West

16 West

12 South Province

10 East

10 North

08 North West

06 Extreme North

2. Foreign

3 Ivory Coast

1 South Africa

Category of calls:

- 38 cases on corruption.

- 24 cases on Police abuse.

- 5 cases on extortion

- 8 cases on abusive lay-offs.

- 14 calls seeking for legal advice.

- 23 requests for legal assistance

- 29 Information about AC.

- 39 to confirm the hotline number.

- 5 to appreciate AC work.

- 2 calls related to land conflict.

- 6 seeking employment.

- 51 dialled AC mistakenly.

- 16 calls could not be traced because victims used public booths.

- 11 fell on answering machine.

Remark: There was a general increase in calls from all the 10 Regions of Cameroon.

This is a pointer to the fact that the AC contact address and information being

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advertised over the News Bar of the National Television (CRTV) is yielding fruits. Secondly, the increase in calls can be attributed to the new policy by AC of sending volunteers with posters and brochures right into residential areas.

NB In spite of the huge financial and material effort deployed by AC via its donors,, the numerous calls and contacts are yet to lead to court cases. This can be attributed to the fact that majority of the victims before contacting AC have either already implicated themselves by wilfully offering bribes, which is punishable by Section 134.b, of the Penal Code, or they prefer out-of-court settlements, or are simply too afraid of a court case. However, with continuous investigations AC hopes to register good court cases from the lot at its disposal.

Emails:

15 electronic mails were received by AC.

- 5 mails were on corruption
- 4 mails were appreciating AC work
- 5 mails were seeking legal assistance.

AC Brochure:

- 1600 AC information brochures were produced.
- 1562 were distributed to victims at the Ministries, Markets and other locations.

Observation: The brochure is a useful empowerment tool to victims. This is because, on two occasions, the Coordinator and the Legal Assistant met with victims on the field who called after having received the brochure four weeks back.

AC Public Notices:

- **340 Public Notices** were pasted at different places in Yaounde. The pasting was at the following places: Ministry of Mines to EMIA (50 posters -06/6/09), EMIA to Old Melen market (70 posters -13/6/09), Mvog-Mbi market (60 posters -06/6/09), Taxation Omni-sport (10 posters – 06/6/09) and the Administrative Centre (150 posters – 27/6/09).

Observation:

- To resolve the emerging problem of AC notices being removed regularly and mindful of the fact that the Urban Council is increasingly making it difficult for unpaid notices to be put up, AC started moving into residential areas with the information posters so as to meet victims.

II. INVESTIGATIONS (Details)

- AC investigators met a victim at the Ministry of Public Service and Administrative Reforms; presented a case in which an authority in the Ministry of Finance was requesting 50 percent of the amount he is due before payments. AC invited him several times for a working session but he complained of busy work

- schedule. The last time AC got in touch with him, he said he did hand over the case to CONAC – which is the government body.
- AC investigators also met a retired civil servant whose retirement benefits can not be paid because an official in the Ministry of Finance is requesting that he pays 50 percent of the 4. 300. 000 Frs., which he is due. AC is still discussing with the victim who travelled to the West Region.
 - AC investigators also recruited a victim at the Public Service who heads a Common Initiative Group in Bafia. He wants AC to help him launch a law suit against the Delegate of Livestock and Animal Husbandry for diverting funds destined for his group. AC has tried to reach him by phone on a daily basis ever since to no avail.
 - AC also followed up the case of a victim who was extorted CFA 2.5 million Frs., by a General of the Cameroonian Armed Forces who promised to place him into the Cameroon National Advance School of Administration and Magistracy (EMIA). The deal never worked and the money was never returned.
- AC investigators also examined the case of another victim who equally gave the sum of CFA 700.000 Frs., to a police officer who promised to buy him a place into Cameroon's National Police College.

III. LEGAL

- AC held two working sessions with the leaders of ADDEC on how to get the victims in the ASMAC case file a suit against the Director in place of ADDEC. This was in an effort to get justice done after the Investigating Magistrate gave a 'No Case' ruling in April.
- AC had an in-house training workshop on "The Legal instruments regulating Corruption in Cameroon". The talk was presented by the Legal Assistant. The objective was to empower the AC staff and volunteers on legal instruments on corruption so that they can better analyse facts on the ground.
- AC classified all the cases it has been following up into: Active Cases, Open Cases and Closed Cases. The Active Cases are those in which AC is discussing the possibility of court action with the victims; the Open Cases are those in which investigations for more facts are still being conducted and the Closed Cases are those that the courts have ruled on them or in which the victims do not want a court case or in which there is no sufficient evidence on corruption.
- AC also produced a 'Testimony Form'. It is a form used during preliminary investigations. It offers the victim the opportunity to freely express his/her experience of the act of corruption and the circumstances.
- **Status of Cases:** Six Active cases. That is AC is getting the victims to get the relevant information prior to committing to a court case; 15 Open cases, where preliminary investigations are still going on and 11 closed cases.

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IV. MEDIA

- 6 meetings were held between AC and Private Radio stations in Yaounde. The goal was to exploit the possibility of having AC information briefs being aired through their popular programmes dealing with human interest stories.
- AC contacted web site manager to put up the 2008 Activity and Financial Reports. The publication of these reports meets one of AC's governing principles, that is, transparency.
- AC contact information to victims of corruption passed regularly over the national TV news bar. This led to an increase in the monthly number of calls.

V. HUMAN RESOURCES

- A.C. Director held two working sessions with the AC staff. He stressed on the need for laid down Procedures to be respected.
- He called on the staff to follow up complaints with care.
- AC Director tested two new applicants for possible recruitment as volunteers. One was not at all impressive. One was asked to get in touch with the FHRD (a partner NGO in the fight against corruption) where she could get some experience before applying for a second interview.

VI. RELATIONS WITH INSTITUTIONS

- AC Director had a working session with visiting British Parliamentarians. Amongst others, the talks examined the fight against corruption in Cameroon and the role that parliament and the Civil Society can play.
- AC Director equally received in audience a Cameroonian-born film producer resident in the USA. He came to solicit for material and moral support from the Director since the to-be film has scenes of corruption.
- AC Director also received in audience the Director of the NGO Prison Fellowship Cameroon. The latter is also a member of the National Commission on Human Rights and Freedoms. Talks centered on how she could forward to AC corruption related cases from the Commission and from her NGO fighting for the rights of prisoners.
- AC also tried to get in touch with the Director of a French NGO which was preparing to publish information on the alleged illegal enrichment by Cameroonian government leaders.

VII. RELATIONS WITH NGOS

- 2 meetings were held with the Associations of the Defense of the Rights of Cameroon Students (ADDEC). The objective of these consultations were to get victims of the case against the Director of the National Advance School of Mass Communication (ASMAC) to file a new complaint against the former who

- extorted CFA six hundred thousand Frs., from each student instead of CFA 50.000 Frs., as laid down by law.
- AC tried in vain to have audience with the Director of the Association of the Defense of the Interest of Citizens (ACDIC). The latter's NGO had unveiled a corruption racket in the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development which diverted funds meant to fund the production of maize by rural farmers. The AC Director had expressed the desire to help ACDIC regroup victims for a court case. He preferred the government anti-corruption body (CONAC) which failed him. AC Coordinator tried endlessly over two weeks to let the latter agree to meet the AC Director to discuss the way forward towards grouping the victims for a court case.
 - AC held three meetings with the leaders of the General Confederation of Cameroon Transport Trade Unions. The latter had gotten in touch with AC thanks to the AC contact information on the National TV (CRTV). The meetings were aimed at presenting AC to the Trade Unionists, knowing them and understanding their corruption-related problems and working out a programme of action. A working memorandum to guide the collaboration was to be established.
 - AC sent a victims' complaint form to Global Conscience Initiative Kumba (GCI). This form was to be used during preliminary investigations. This was also in an attempt to re-launch the case of the drivers union in Kumba stalled since March 2009.
 - AC equally received the leader of Les Volontaires Pour le Developpement (an NGO) in the Far North Region of Cameroon. He came to solicit AC support in an on-going court case against his NGO. His NGO had refused to caution 'undue demand' in the execution of a project destined for a Rural Council in Maroua. AC management placed the burden of searching for proofs of corruption on him, once this is done, AC may provide legal assistance.

VIII. MANAGEMENT

- AC Director held two working sessions with the Coordinator. He stressed on the need for the Coordinator to ensure the respect of laid down procedures in handling cases and other AC activities. They also discussed on the problem of the legal status of AC that is still pending with no explanations from the government.
- AC Coordinator personally followed up the trainee-volunteers on six occasions.
- Management approved the acquisition of additional office material for cases such as files and documentation material. The goal is to better classify cases.



IX. AC FINANCES**The expenditure of A.C. Organization by budgetary heading in June 09**

Amount FCFA	Item	Details	USD amount
485 340	Investigations	43 investigations: AC new outreach policy of meeting victims even in residential quarters. Many cases of corruption at government ministries. Victims reticent about court cases. 538 calls on hotline.	\$1 032,6
214 400	Legal	Classified all cases into three categories; produced a 'Testimony Form' for victims, in-house training workshop on corruption and two meetings with ADDEC.	\$456,2
30 000	Media	6 meetings with media houses on recruiting victims.	\$63,8
291 400	Management	Director had 2 working sessions with Coordinator on 'Procedures' and case analysis.	\$620,0
25 400	Office	New case files bought.	\$54,0
1 046 540	TOTAL EXPENDITURE JUNE		\$2 226,7

Total expenditure by giver for the month of June

Amount FCFA	Donor	USD Amount
1 046 540	Dutch Embassy	\$2 226,7
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