

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



I- HIGHLIGHTS

- **A.C. News Bar was briefly suspended over CRTV at a very prime time (The Pope's Visit).**
- **One of A.C. Workers stops work abruptly.**
- **After several meetings, AC produced a bilingual information brochure to be distributed freely to victims of corruption.**
- **AC website also went operational.**

II- INVESTIGATIONS

- **2 field investigations were conducted to Kumba.**
- **8 field investigations were undertaken in Yaounde.**
 - **3 at the Gaenecological Hospital at Ngoussou**
 - **One at Tsinga, the 8th Police Station.**
 - **3 at the Ministry of Transport**
 - **One at the Vehicle Testing Center at Mvan.**

NB: See details before III.

AC Hotline and Emails.

Hotline

AC received a total of **407 calls**:

This represents a close to 25% increase compared to February.

135 victims were contacted by AC via call-back.

- 25 were victims of corruption
- 34 called to confirm AC contact information and to salute the initiative,
- 7 Calls were related to extortion,
- 4 calls related to embezzlement of public funds,
- 14 called to report Police Abuses,
- 6 calls denouncing corruption,
- 2 arbitrary lay offs,
- 9 counselling on judicial procedures in Cameroon,
- 2 requesting for financial assistance,
- 5 land disputes,
- 33 calls could not be traced because they used commercial public booths,
- 4 took up AC calls but will not speak.

272 could not be contacted by AC.

Emails:

A total of **21 mails**:

- 6 were victims of corruption,

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- 12 Human rights related problems,
- 2 to congratulate AC,
- One seeking for employment.

AC Brochure:

- After several corrections by the AC Director, an AC general information brochure was finally produced in March. The production of an information brochure was deemed necessary as a means of directly empowering victims of corruption. It is distributed freely to members of the public. 100 copies were produced.
- 30 copies were distributed in Kumba.
- 06 AC Info Kits were distributed in Kumba.
- 50 were distributed in Yaounde: 20 at Obili 30 in town.
- Translated Brochure into French, yet to be printed.

II. INVESTIGATIONS (Details)**Kumba:**

- The trip to Kumba was a continuation of a mission started in February. Corruption was noticed at the Meme Divisional Delegation of Transport where the Delegate was involved in what Article 142 of the Penal Code calls “Undue Demand”.
- The Mayor of the Kumba I Urban Council was equally an accomplice in the offence of undue demand.
- In both cases, the two authorities illegally extorted money from vehicle users in the name of issuing them Certificates of Road Worthiness that they are not authorised to by law.
- NB: For details consult “Report of First Trip to Kumba”, and “Report of Second Trip to Kumba” in the AC Investigations Kit.

Ministry of Transport:

- Our mission to the Ministry of Transport was to obtain the Ministerial Decision instituting Vehicle Testing Centres in Cameroon and the Decree Privatising the Sector.
- There the Sub-Director in charge of Land Transport informed AC “No official of his Ministry has the power to conduct Vehicle Testing Services or to issue any certificate related to that.” He said that private companies conduct all vehicle testing.

The Gaenecological and Obstetric Hospital:

AC visited the hospital and noticed that Doctors requested an additional sum of 6.000 Frs. Before signing a Medical Certificate after the legally authorised 1.800 Frs. has been paid.

The 8th Police Station Tsinga

AC noticed that the Police extort money from citizens before following up cases. Such money is requested indirectly in the name of “petrol money”.

III. LEGAL

- **One** “constatation” was conducted by AC at the Gaenecological and Obstetric hospital at Ngoussou with Maitre Temngoua (Bailiff). NB: AC went with a bailiff to witness allegations by a victim who was asked to pay an illegal 6000 Frs CFA., by doctors before a medical certificate was issued.
- The 2nd “constatation” scheduled at the 8th Police Station Tsinga did not hold because the victim did not sign on for a court case, he preferred to negotiate with the Police officers (pay the bribe).
- AC held a working session with Lawyer Fombad in the latter’s office at Tsinga on how to file a lawsuit following the ‘constatation’ of the Bailiff at the Ngoussou Hospital.
- AC was informed by ADDEC that the Yaounde Court of First Instance rejected the lawsuit filed by ADDEC/AC against the Director of ASMAC on the grounds that the accused was not the competent moral person.
- Met with Lawyer Tambe in Kumba to discuss the modalities of filing a lawsuit on the Kumba Drivers’ case.

IV. MEDIA

- AC website went fully operational in English. The site’s address <http://www.kick-corruption.org>. Just like the posters, media interventions and brochure, the website is yet another tool for information and sensitization of victims of corruption.
 - The purpose of the website is equally to publish AC activities, programmes, finances to victims, the public and to donors.
- AC got in touch with CRTV to know why the AC public information on the News Bar was suspended during the Papal visit and thereafter.

V. RELATIONS WITH INSTITUTIONS

- Meeting with CIFOR to discuss the problem of corruption in the Forestry sector and corruption in the NGO sector.
- Meeting in the US on corruption in the NGO sector and involving the citizens in the fight against corruption through legal action, including: author Raymond Baker, US State Department Officials, US Senate, African Union officials, INTERPOL –Washington, USAID officials and journalists.
- Meetings in the UK on corruption in the NGO sector and involving the citizens in the fight against corruption through legal action, including: officials from the Foreign Office, DFID, the NGO Tiri, the author Giles Bolton, academic researcher of corruption and other activists.

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- Meeting with African Union officials on corruption in the NGO sector and involving the citizens in the fight against corruption through legal action.

VI. RELATIONS WITH NGOS

- **One** meeting with the Director of the Ecumenical Service for Peace (SEP) at Nsimeyong with the aim of presenting AC and getting a case on corruption. A meeting was scheduled between the AC Founder/Director and that of SEP.
- **One** meeting with the Director of Prison Fellowship Cameroon at Mendong Yaounde with the aim of presenting AC and getting a case on corruption.
- Met with the CEO of Global Conscience Kumba for the first time on how to get victims sign on to a court case.

VII. MANAGEMENT

- AC Coordinator officially received AC's **cash box**, and **cashbook** from LAGA.
- AC's Volunteer stopped work abruptly complaining of poor health.

VIII. AC FINANCES

The expenditure of A.C. Organization by budgetary heading in March 09

Amount FCFA	Item	Details	Amount in USD
275 000	Investigations	18 investigations; 407 calls on the Hotline, AC contacted 135	\$ 544,6
185 700	Legal	Bailiff witnessed corruption in a Yaounde Hospital; AC met with two Lawyers.	\$ 367,7
20 000	Media	AC website went operational	\$ 39,6
289 500	Management	Coordinator went on field investigation	\$ 573,3
32 150	Office	Consumables	\$ 63,7
802 350	Total Expenditure March		\$ 1 588,8

Total expenditure by giver for the month of March 09

Amount FCFA	Donor	Amount USD
356 150	British High Commission	\$ 705,2
446 200	Dutch Embassy	\$ 883,6
802 350	TOTAL	\$ 1 589

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