



The Parrot



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"Corruption Retards Development"

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Play Football, Stop Corruption

Using Football to Fight Corruption!

With the financial support from the **Partnership for Transparency Foundation (PTF)**, USA, the **Global Network for Good Governance (GNGG)** Cameroon on the 1st of February 2009, launched the project **"Play Football, Stop Corruption"**, a corruption reduction project for Sporting organizations in Cameroon.

The project to last 6 months has as overall objective to fight corruption in sporting organizations in Cameroon by raising the awareness of corruption with sporting associations, organizations and the wider CSO/ NGO community.

Under the grant, a three-day workshop shall be organized to identify and develop an anti-corruption toolkit that reflects the situation in Cameroon and the participating organizations. It shall also encourage the development of good governance methodologies and strategic direction of the organizations.

The project output includes a toolkit to be used by sporting organizations and distributed through the Ministry of Sports and Physical Education; a launching event where toolkits, four billboards planted at community headquarters and during football matches will attract media and the general public. As a follow up, a TV presentation will be made, and the project outcome will be presented on GNGG's Website.

A project Officer, **Edwin Franz**, 50 years old, has been recruited to steer the project. He was an international soccer player and presently serves as a Match Commissioner of the MTN Elite One Football Competition in Cameroon. He is expected to use his know-how and the wide contacts within the sporting world in Cameroon for the success of the project. Please, visit the GNGG website at: www.gnng.org for all project details.



Corruption takes Fun and Suspense out of Football



*Edwin Franz
Project Officer*

Also Inside...

•Football and Corruption

•Regina Chiluba jailed for Corruption in Zambia

•How Women Sponsor Corruption to satisfy increasing want for Luxury, Wealth and Power

How Corruption Pollutes Football



Corruption takes the Football game off the playground to the Grandstands

Once upon a time, the game of Football was created in England and immediately rose to prominence as the most popular game that brought hundreds of spectators to the stadium to watch two opposing teams kick the round ball towards two goal posts planted on opposite ends of the field of play.

For almost two centuries the game of football grew into a favourite sports played worldwide. To sustain it, sporting organizations grew at the local, national and international levels alongside sporting federations. All soccer events led up to the climax set by the World Football Cup played once every four years to celebrate the greatness of the sport.

Countries like Brazil, Germany, Cameroon have seen football become their greatest cultural symbol around which the unity of these nations have come to depend on.

Played for fun in the beginning, football has become a multi-billion dollar industry attracting investment from nations, companies and interest groups.

The result is evident as most football teams have become properties of very rich business magnates and the most profitable vehicles of mass advertising. Billions



are invested in purchase and transfer of players; development of infrastructure and sports equipment.

Fun and suspense have been relegated to the background while victory at all costs has been brought to the fore. Players are paid

astronomical sums to bring victory to their clubs. Since clubs seek to obtain victory at all costs, club owners have, on all continents, adopted unorthodox and corrupt practices to guarantee returns on their investments.

As local and regional championships unroll, club executives engage in match fixing; corrupt referees and players; bribe football federations for favourable policies; force players into voodoo practices before and during matches.

The result is the absence of fun, fairplay and suspense in football encounters nowadays. Spectators are deserting playgrounds where they believe football results are determined in the grandstands.

The countdown towards South Africa 2010 has begun and the general cry on all continents seems to 'Play Football, Stop Corruption'.

Frustrated football lovers have suggested that rigorous professional, financial and judicial procedures and sanctions be put in place to discourage corruption. Furthermore, all contracts should be notarized before lawyers of either parties and all financial transactions be done in transparency. They also recommend equal salaries for players, a halt to professional football in favour of amateur football and a reduction of media impact on football. Such measures will give room to the rebirth of good football.

By George Mbella

Regina Chiluba Jailed For Corruption in Zambia

Zambia's former First Lady, Regina Chiluba, was jailed for three and a half years by a Magistrate in Lusaka Zambia, last March 2009, for Corruption.

Regina Chiluba was found guilty of receiving \$300,000 from her husband, former President Frederick Chiluba.

The money was suspected as being stolen treasury funds as well as property that included houses bought with treasury funds.

Regina Chiluba's jail sentence comes amidst a vast crackdown on graft among senior past and present government officials that was started by late President Levy Mwanawasa. His successors have continued the cleansing scheme that aims at transforming Zambia into an example of a corrupt free nation.

The anti-graft drive has since met the support and approval of international financial donors and agencies who have expressed disapproval about how funds meant for development are being stolen by unscrupulous government officials in Africa.



Regina and Frederick Chiluba

Former President Chiluba himself is not spared for he faces charges of embezzlement of public funds that could amount to \$488,000. Eventhough he has denied

committing any wrong.

The anti-corruption drive is also going in other countries like Guinea-Conakry, Cameroon and Nigeria.

WOMEN AND CORRUPTION

How Women Sponsor Corruption to satisfy increasing Want for Luxury, Wealth and Power

On March 8 2009, Women in celebrated the International Day of the woman with pomp and pageantry. A closer look unto the root causes of corruption and the growing success of woman empowerment in Africa warranted a rather bitter diagnosis: Women have become the sponsors of corruption in order to satisfy their increasing huge wants for luxury, wealth and power.

Before Beijing, the woman was more sober, passive and an excellent home manager upon whom the protection of values of integrity, honesty and irreproachable moral behaviour reposed. As 'Prime Minister and Head of Government' in the home, she inspected her kids and husband, every evening when the latter returned home, for traces of disorderliness, uncleanliness and poor moral behaviour. Some bad words and behaviour 'imported' from outside were banned. Her temper against breaches were legendary that comparing with friends were just taboo. No husband or kid was courageous enough to enter the home with any object of doubtful origin for fear of her reaction and outbursts. Her inquisitive eyes missed nothing!



Unfortunately, since the wind of women empowerment blew from Beijing across homes, the woman's role as guardian of moral values eroded so fast. Peeping out of her window and into her TV screen, she saw women rise to powerful positions and acquire luxury and wealth from their 'rich' husbands. She too joined the race encouraging her husband to

join the race for wealth, setting her love as the trophy.

And so men in positions started stealing public funds to buy cars, build castles using their wives' names with the latter's blessings. Should women return to their moral roles than corruption will be reduced, at least from the household.

How Corrupt Are You?

Coordinator

Mukete Tahle Itoe

Editor-in-Chief

George Mbella

Editors

Nkeng David, Prince Fotabong Chris, Yvonne Nyenty

GNGG Secretariat

First Floor, Petit Papa Building, New Town

P.O. Box 607 Limbe, South West Province

Republic of Cameroon

Tel: +237 7753 66 82 / 99 10 40 23

Email: gngg2000@yahoo.com

Website: www.geocities.com/gngg2000 , www.gngg.org