



US Ambassador Calls For Declaration of Assets by Public Officials



The US Ambassador to Cameroon, H.E Niels Marquardt has called for the strict application of Article 66 of the 1996 Constitution, which requires that public officials should declare their assets before and after they leave office. The US diplomat was talking as Guest, during a press talk at the Yaounde Communication House on Thursday, January 19th 2006.

He wondered why this short, yet efficient text has not yet been put to application. He advised that the courts be free and independent from any interference, for them to fully perform their responsibility in prosecuting cases of corruption or other crimes.

H.E. Niels Marquardt expressed disapproval at the way corruption is being fought in Cameroon. He said that it doesn't suffice to publish the names of people suspected of corruption or remove them from office. To him, those accused of corruption should be officially prosecuted, judged and sentenced if found guilty. He even added that their ill-gotten wealth should be seized and given back to the State treasury.

Anti-Corruption Observatory launches campaign against Corruption

The National Anti-Corruption Observatory has begun a nationwide sensitisation campaign against Corruption.

Mr Christol Georges Manon, Head of the Anti-Corruption Observatory, solemnly launched the campaign on the Wednesday 19th January in Ebolowa, South Province. The administrative, municipal and traditional authorities joined the population to condemn the evil practice of corruption.

For two months members of the Observatory will visit the principal towns of the country to sensitise the population and all stakeholders about the dangers of corruption to the development of the Country.

This campaign is certainly follow-up of President Paul Biya's promise to eradicate corruption in Cameroon.



Paul Biya, determined to fight Corruption

PM invites Ministers to fight Corruption and promote Good Governance

The Prime Minister, H.E. Chief Inoni Ephraim has called on the Ministers to unite in the fight against corruption and promote Good Governance. He said this at the end of a Government Seminar on *Ownership of Reforms*, organised for all members of the Cabinet, on January 26th

and 27th to exchange on the best ways to ensure the ownership of reforms currently carried out by the Government in the various sectors of the economy in view of attaining the Enhanced HIPC Initiative Completion point.

Half a dozen 'big' files on corruption currently under examination!

The Vice Prime Minister, Minister of Justice, Amadou Ali has revealed that the Judiciary is currently examining about half a dozen 'big' files on corruption.

In an interview that he granted exclusively to CRTV and Cameroon Tribune on January 23rd 2006, the Minister explained that Cameroon is a State of Law that respects principles like the Separation of Powers and the Presumption of Innocence. As such, corruption and embezzlement could only be punished by the courts. Administrative sanctions could intervene but the supreme sanction can only be by legal means. The Judiciary is a power that is empowered to



Vice Prime Minister, Amadou Ali

carry out independent investigation, arrest and judgement. So the said 'big' files related to corruption and embezzlement of state funds by some public officials have been transferred to the justice department for examination.

CUSTOMS Boss admits Loss of 14 billion CFA to Corruption in 2004

The Director of Customs, Mr Antoine Manga Massina has declared that the sum of 14 billion FCFA was lost in 2004 because of corruption and smuggling. He made this declaration during a press conference on Friday 27th January 2006 organised as part of celebrations to mark the Customs Day. He also blamed this loss on the lack of equipment and personnel, and expressed hopes that with the current measures put in place by government to fight corruption, the damage will be lessened.

Transparency International classified the Customs service by in 2005 as the 3rd most corrupt sector of the public administration.

Buea Hosts National Civil Society Consultation On Corruption

Under the auspices of the Civil Initiatives for Development with Integrity (CIDI), a civil society consultation on corruption was held at the Parliamentary Flats in Buea from 18th to 20th January 2006.

Grouping over 35, consultants, senior citizens, members of parliament and representatives of the civil society organisations from many parts of the country, the workshop examined what part the civil society can play in remedying the current corruption crisis in Cameroon.

After two days of deliberations and recommendations:

To create an umbrella association as 'Civil Society Anti-Corruption Network' (CISAC-NET), which will synergize the contributions of all Civil Society actors in the area of education, sensitisation and corruption tracking and engagement with relevant State structure.



Participants at the Consultation

To advocate the upgrading of the status of moral and religious instruction in our school system.

To advocate the empowering of the civil society and build up a plan to enhance the work of our political leaders at all levels.

To set up a plan to enhance the work of our political leaders at all levels

To set up an Anticorruption Newsletter, titled *Corruption Alert*.

The Workshop made a number of recommendations including

That government should see to the immediate implementation of **Article 66** of the 1996 Constitution;

That the government should provide a Civil Society voice space in policy formulation, through representation in decision-making for a

That government appointments should reflect respect for career profiles of public servants;

That government should enhance the living standards of public servants by raising salaries and lightening the tax burden;

That government should speedily carry out provisions on decentralisation.

The newly created umbrella organisation finally resolved to work in close collaboration with the government and other state structures such as the Anti-Corruption Observatory, the National Governance Program and Human Rights Commission. To bolster efforts being made to eradicate corruption in the Cameroonian society.

Governors instructed to intensify the fight Against Corruption in the Provinces

The Minister of State in charge of Territorial Administration and Decentralisation, Marafa Hamidou Yaya, has instructed all the Governors from the ten provinces to intensify the fight against corruption in the provinces. The Governors were gathered in Yaounde for three days' Governors' Conference in Yaounde from January 24th to 26th 2006.

During the conference, the Governors were lectured on the importance of keeping in check public service institutions in the province against corruption.

The Governors were told to report all cases of corrupt behaviour by public officials for prompt sanctions. This measure will certainly empower Governors to install discipline amongst administrative, municipal and even traditional authorities in their respective provinces.

TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL CAMEROON

Is organising two opinion surveys on corruption through out the national territory. The exercises will touch households and business establishments.

Four Magistrates Sanctioned for Corrupt and Professional Malpractices



Following the judgement of 10 magistrates at a session of the Higher Judicial Council chaired by President Biya late last year, sanctions were given to two more magistrates on January 3rd 2006 by Presidential decree for corrupt and professional malpractices. Two magistrates had earlier been sanctioned in December. The sanctions ranged from dismissal from office, lowering of grades etc. Unlike before, these sanctions, as well as the names of the magistrates, were published in the media

Ministry of Culture organises Anti-Corruption Competition for Artists

The Ministry of Culture has launched a competition for Cameroonian artists. This competition puts to test the creativity of artists to show through any artistic work the destructive effects of corruption and the best

ways to combat it in Cameroon. The artists have one month to submit their works to the jury. This exercise will certainly produce songs, paintings or art against corruption.

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