



Ghana Integrity Initiative
(Local Chapter of Transparency International)

GII Alert

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GII Launches Ghana's National Water Supply Integrity Study

**“GHANA’S NATIONAL WATER SUPPLY INTEGRITY STUDY”
(Mapping Transparency, Accountability & Participation in Service Delivery: An analysis of the water supply sector in Ghana)**

The Ghana Integrity Initiative (GII) the Local Chapter of Transparency International (TI) recently launched a report titled “Ghana’s National Water Supply Integrity Study”. This report is the outcome of the Transparency and Integrity in Service Delivery in Africa (TISDA) project, a Transparency International initiative with funding support from Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

TISDA is being implemented in seven (7) African countries by TI Chapters focusing on three (3) sectors. Cameroon and South Africa focused on education, Ghana, Kenya, and Senegal focused on water and Uganda and Zambia focused on Health. The objective of the project is to achieve greater integrity, transparency and accountability in the provision of basic services through effective research and



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ALAC UNDERTAKES ANOTHER OUTREACH PROGRAMME

The Advocacy and Legal Advice Centre (ALAC) of Ghana Integrity Initiative (GII), has undertaken an outreach programme in some selected districts in the country in collaboration with the Commission for Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ). The outreach programme was under the sponsorship of the “Strengthening Transparency, Accountability and Responsiveness Ghana (STAR-Ghana)” in the month of August and September, 2011.

The programme involved the organisation of seminars for participants in communities including Nkawkaw and Koforidua in the Eastern region, Bechem and Sunyani in the

Brong Ahafo region and Lawra and Wa in the Upper West region. The average number of participants per seminar was about 60, with a fair representation of women. Participants were drawn from Ghana Education Service (G.E.S), municipal/district assemblies, Ghana Police Service, Ghana Immigration Service, Customs, as well as teachers, students, pastors, moslem clerics, journalists, the National Commission on Civic Education (NCCE), etc.

The objectives of the outreach programme were to:

- Educate people about the negative effects of corruption on national development;

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Editorial Team

Prof. Audrey Gadzekpo
Vitus A. Azeem
Linda Ofori-Kwafo
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The Editorial Board of GII Alert encourages readers to write "Letters to the Editor" on matters they wish to comment on as well as short stories or expert pieces on corruption/good governance. The stories must, however, be relevant to the anti-corruption crusade. Articles should remain brief and straight to the point to increase their chances of being published. The Editor reserves the right to edit such articles to suit the editorial policy of the newsletter and the general mandate of the GII.

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Ghana Integrity Initiative (GII)
is the local chapter of
Transparency International (TI),
the leading non-governmental
organisation in the fight against
corruption worldwide.

Freedom of Information Law: Long overdue but...

Despite establishing herself as a vibrant democracy in West Africa, Ghana is yet to provide the legal right of access to information produced by government and relevant private bodies to its citizens and other interested parties.

In the absence of such access, citizens are only able to determine whether politicians are truly acting in the interests of the public through the media, some of whom are driven by partisan agendas. It is often difficult for citizens to make reasoned decisions when they do not know which facts are official and which ones are not.

A Right to Information (RTI) legislation should ordinarily help citizens and civil society organizations to monitor how the taxpayer's money is spent. The benefits of this to a people-centred social and economic development agenda are clear. Informed communities are definitely better equipped to take on the authorities over the provision or non-provision of essential public services and infrastructure projects. Through the right to information, people are able to make the government work for them.

However, these are potentials which can only be realized within the right legal framework. While a Right to Information Bill has been in the works in Ghana since 2002, a number of analysts have noted shortcomings of the current draft, which would make it possible for officials to subvert the purpose of the bill when finally enacted into law.

So, even as we join the campaign for the bill to be enacted as soon as possible, we also ask that the legislation should conform to international standards of best practice, such as the African Union's Declaration of Principles on Freedom of Expression in Africa 2002.

In order to ensure that RTI legislation succeeds in supporting the people's ability to access information, it must take into account several crucial standards. For instance, the law should apply not only to government agencies but also to other state agencies. Private institutions that carry out public functions or impact on citizen's rights must also have the obligation to disclose relevant information. In addition to permitting the public to submit requests, institutions must be mandated to proactively disseminate information related to their functioning. This will help reduce the number of requests submitted to authorities.

Also, limits on disclosure must be minimal and specific. The general standard must be one of maximum disclosure, and the burden of proving that restricting access is in the public interest must rest with the authorities. The process of requesting information should be simple, inexpensive and swift.

It is also important to get an independent body to oversee appeals and impose penalties upon those who deliberately obstruct access to information.

Indeed, Article 21(1) (f) of Ghana's Constitution does protect "the right to information subject to qualifications and such laws as are necessary in a democratic society." The problem is the lack of legislated rules or procedures in place to operationalise this constitutional guarantee.

Some officials have attributed the delay in passing the bill to problems with infrastructure, yet a number of observers point to a lack of political will on the part of the authorities. It is high time our leaders prove their critics wrong by passing a very progressive Right to Information law.

The state of corruption in Ghana

By: *Bellinia Asiedu-Young*
SpyGhana.com

Corruption is sometimes defined as the abuse of public power for private gain. Some of the common forms of corruption are bribery, abuse of public funds, nepotism, and influencing laws. According to experts on financial world issues, corruption comes at a cost to everyone and therefore should be everyone's concern.

Globally, it is estimated that between \$1 trillion and \$1.6 trillion is lost each year to illegal activities arising from corruption.

Corruption decreases the amount of a country's wealth and lowers the standard of living, so it will affect you even if you don't come into direct contact with it. Some of the secondary effects of corruption are that it discourages businesses from operating properly, thereby reducing the overall wealth in the country. It also reduces the amount of money available to pay workers, and lowers the government's capacity to purchase goods and services. In addition, it gives a distorted view of the way government spends its money and results in low value services,

and inefficient services such as health, roads, schools, policing, sewerage and drainage.

There was a time in Ghana that a person felt extreme shame and families were stigmatized because a family member had been found to be corrupt. That was yesteryear. Now the corrupt show no sign of shame because people have been desensitized.

Unchecked, corruption has become an accepted norm of everyday life in Ghana and has permeated every fabric of the society. People who have amassed wealth through corruption are often given the best seats in the house, so to speak.

When auditors are sent to state institutions to verify financial accounts and check into company procedures, the managers go to extreme lengths to serve them lunch and expensive drinks so they can look the other way. This is bribery of the highest order; a conflict of interest situation.

Corrupt government office holders bend the rules to favour themselves, their families and friends, thereby destroying the trust the public have in them. In Ghana, no political party, ethnic group, gender or age group can

exempt itself from this destructive practice. There is corruption galore – everywhere you turn, office holders expect bribes in order to perform their duties – at customs, the harbour, the police, etc.

Ghana needs good leaders in order to fight corruption. While in office, our leaders must articulate their anti-corruption visions properly, and show good examples for other office holders to emulate.

They must provide a strong moral ground for the citizens otherwise their actions or inactions enable corruption to continue. Incidentally, recent outcries on financial entitlements and emoluments to Ghana's ex-Presidents are making the issue more complicated.

Some people have opined that all those financial trappings constitute an abuse of public funds and, therefore, borders on corruption. Can Ghana afford to provide multiple houses, numerous cars, yearly foreign travel packages and what have you, to its ex-presidents when the people continue to suffer so much? The more we allow this issue to go unresolved, the more embarrassing it will become as Ghana ends up with three, four or more ex-presidents relying heavily on state coffers.

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ALAC UNDERTAKES ANOTHER OUTREACH PROGRAMME

- Inform people about the services of the ALAC;
- Receive complaints on corruption;
- Partner with local people and institutions in the fight against corruption and thereby encourage anti-corruption crusaders in Ghana.

At all the seminars, there was a power point presentation on the effects of corruption on national development and a documentary on anti-corruption.

During discussions, participants cited poverty, fear, low salaries and ignorance as the main causes of corruption in the country. To combat the menace, they suggested that more public awareness and more reporting of acts of corruption, improved salaries and sanctioning of culprits could go a long way to mitigate the canker.

It was suggested at the seminar that ALAC should display the toll free number (0800-10025) at all state institutions.



UNITED NATIONS
Office on Drugs and Crime

GII Launches “Ghana's National Water Supply Integrity Study”

advocacy. Specifically in Ghana, TISDA aims at identifying risks related to lack of transparency and integrity and their potential negative impacts on water supply performance.

The project comprised of two main phases namely: the Assessment / Survey phase (2009 - 2010) and the Advocacy Phase (2011). For effective implementation of the project, GII established a 9-member Advisory Committee comprising Public, Private and CSOs in the water sector to provide technical guidance and support for the project.

Prof. Audrey Gadzekpo, a Board Member of GII, chaired the launch ceremony. In her opening remarks, she emphasized the saying that “water is life” and yet there appears to be some malfeasance in water service delivery. According to her, this was why GII decided to focus on the water sector. She stated that the study provided solid evidence aimed at demanding action to ensure improved water service delivery in the country. Professor Gadzekpo expressed worry about the finding that 78% of households spent two hours a day while 70% walked relatively long distances in search of water. She stated further that it was worrying that individuals spent 15% of their monthly income on water. She, therefore, called on all stakeholders to seek solutions to the problems of the water sector so as to bring some relief to the citizens.

Mr. Vitus Azeem, the Executive Director of GII, presenting an overview of the report, stated that domestic and industrial urban supplies were based on surface water and that there were sometimes quality problems due to mining activities. In the rural areas, groundwater, from hand pump schemes is the main source of water for consumers. He further intimated that rainwater harvesting is becoming more common. Mr. Vitus Azeem presented the major findings of the study in relation to transparency, integrity in service delivery and water sector governance as follows:

WATER INTEGRITY ANALYSIS

Transparency

On Transparency, Mr. Azeem stated that Ghana has a National Water Policy (NWP), which was discussed in detail in Parliament and that CSOs are happy with it. He added that general anti-corruption legislation exists but requires some streamlining and strengthening. According to Mr. Azeem, the lack of a Right to Information legislation hampers transparency and the free flow of information. He pointed out that measures for ensuring transparency in the water sector include regular reporting systems (financial and project reporting), regular meetings, regular auditing of accounts and publications and documentation of the tendering process. However, the report concluded that despite the existence of these procedures, compliance was weak.

Accountability

On accountability, Mr. Azeem said that measures have been put in place to ensure accountability but they are not implemented effectively. For example, there is a code of conduct and terms and Conditions of Service for staff of

providers but these lack enforcement. Accountability efforts have been mainly upwards through routine submission of monthly, quarterly, annual, project completion and financial reports required by law and project agreements. Processes for ensuring downward accountability are very low.

User participation

Although user participation is a central theme in the NWP it is very low at the urban level. Users do not participate in decision making and meetings are not held with users. At the rural areas, elections are conducted for water and sanitation committees (WATSANs) but there are no serious public consultations.

Gender issues

These have duly been acknowledged in the sector including the participation of women in decision making at the rural level. For example, at least 3 members out of the seven members of the WATSAN must be females.

WATER SECTOR GOVERNANCE - REGULATIONS IN THE SECTOR

Transparency

With regards to the sector governance, the study found out that laws exist but need further review and simplification as well as enforcement. However, private water vendors and tanker owners are not regulated. The study also found out that there were multiple regulators in the sector. These are the Water resources Commission (WRC), the Public Utilities Regulatory Commission (PURC) and the Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies (MMDAs).

Accountability

On accountability of the governance institutions, the study found that the PURC and WRC are relatively independent but that there are some concerns with regards to appointments to these institutions, which could affect the exercise of this independence. Similarly, the Community water and sanitation (CWSA) is both a regulator and an implementer, which could have some problems. In spite of the multiple regulators, there is weak monitoring of activities of service providers and employees.

Participation

The report revealed that access to information was limited, making participation very difficult. There is also no participation in setting principles of tariffs, access criteria and water quality monitoring.

THE WATER SITUATION – RURAL SUPPLY COVERAGE

Rural water supply coverage is estimated at 69% as at 2006, comprising 17,280 boreholes, 4,236 hand dug wells, 185 piped schemes. Considerable differences exist ranging from 52.7% in the Volta region to 94.8% in the Upper West region.

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GII Launches “Ghana's National Water Supply Integrity Study”

Quantity

The water quantities used seem to be on the low side and below the standards that CWSA uses. Actual consumption is 8-10 liters for hand pumps and 8-15 for small town systems (TREND/TPP–2008).

Non-revenue water (NRW) varies with systems with 50% being average level.

Legal Situation

The WATSANs and the Water and Sanitation Development Boards (WSDBs) are semi autonomous voluntary community groups acting on behalf of the MMDAs who are the legal owners of the systems. These WATSANs and WSDBs are recognized by the MMDAs but are not legally established entities and so cannot be legally prosecuted or controlled.

Continuity

Considerable waiting lines may occur at hand pumps at peak hours and breakdown periods may take 3-4 weeks. Small piped schemes with public stand posts usually operate 12 hours a day. In the wet season, usage of hand pumps and small piped schemes is lower as people revert to cheaper sources such as rain water harvesting

Quality

Water quality standards are not implemented. Most systems depend on relatively good quality ground water. Yet 20% of drilled wells have iron and manganese problems and some face salt water intrusion.

Cost & Efficiency

Construction cost is paid by donors or the government with 5% each contribution of the community and the MMDAs. However, all running cost is paid by users through user charges. Small town systems may cost USD 0.60 per M3.

URBAN WATER SUPPLY COVERAGE

Seventy-three per cent of the urban population has access to pipe borne water of which 43% obtain water outside the house while 15% have access to water from wells. Only 22.5% of the population has access to natural sources while 8.4% has access to tanker services and 3.4% has access to water vendor . About 4% has access to sachet/bottled water. Only 15% of the urban poor have direct access to piped water.

Quantity

Design standards for water consumption estimate 75 - 150 liters per household while actual consumption is 50-60 liters. Poorer sections of the community have a much lower consumption level. However, the Ghana Water Company limited (GWCL) currently produces an average output of 551,000m³/ per day as against daily demand of 939,000/ M3.

At the launch of the report, water sector actors' representatives made remarks on the report. They included Ghana Water Company limited (GWCL), Community Water and Sanitation Agency (CWSA), Public Utility Regulatory Commission (PURC), International Water and Sanitation Centre (IRC), and the Ministry of Water Resources, Works and Housing (MWRWH).

In a keynote address read on his behalf by Mr. Stephen Yaw Osei, Assistant Director of Policy Planning & Budget at the MWRWH, Mr. Alban S.K. Bagbin, Minister of Water Resources, Works and Housing, lauded the efforts of GII and intimated that the ministry recognizes that, to address the governance problem in the WASH sector, it is necessary that all stakeholders work to ensure improved transparency,

accountability and integrity. He admitted that the water sector in Ghana was beset with several problems including inefficiencies often promoted by lack of transparency in the water production, purification and distribution process.

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Mr. Bagbin expressed regret that the existing legislation, regulations and provisions to ensure transparency, integrity and accountability in the sector lacked compliance and enforcement and stressed the need to strengthen anti-corruption tools as well as the building of capacity of all stakeholders to implement these tools to promote transparency and integrity in the sector.

He pledged the Ministry's support to ensure that proposals were brought out for requisite legislation that would introduce governance reforms and also ensure that existing policies and regulations were effectively implemented.



Left to right: Mr. Minta Aboagye, Former Water Director, MWRWH, Mr. Kwami Gyasi, Board Chair of GII, Professor Audrey Gadzekpo, Board Member, GII, Mr. Stephen Yaw Osei, Assistant Director of Policy Planning & Budget at the MWRWH and Mr. Vitus A. Azeem, Executive Director, GII at the launch of Ghana National Water Supply Integrity Study.

My thoughts on taxation

By David Nawurah

Why Ghanaians do not like paying taxes?

Every citizen of a country is morally and legally bound to pay a fair share of income as tax to the government to be used to develop the country. Revenue generated by taxation is used by governments to carry out many functions, including the enforcement of law, building of economic infrastructure (roads, hospitals, enforcement of contracts, etc.), public works, social engineering and other operations of the government.

Governments also use taxes to fund welfare and public services. These services may be directed towards improving the education sector, healthcare delivery, pensions for the elderly, unemployment benefits, and public transportation. Energy, water and waste management systems are also common public utilities that are supported by revenue from taxation.

As patriotic citizens of Ghana, we should show commitment to our country and community's development agenda by paying our taxes. Once we all agree that we need better health care, good roads, better education system, better security and potable water, we should assist the government by diligently paying our taxes. On the other hand, government should also use the revenue efficiently to the benefit of the tax payer.

Denmark has one of the highest tax compliance rates even though its tax levels are among the highest in the world. The country has a very large public sector which takes care of



The Author

many services. A citizen of Denmark pays a relatively high tax with the knowledge that the authorities have put in place good systems that he/she benefits from. For instance, Danes benefit from efficient and quality free education and healthcare systems.

In Ghana, have we bothered to ask ourselves the reason why many people don't want to be taxed? The answer is simple: a lot of people find it difficult to see the link between taxes and social benefits because there is a lack of access to potable water, good roads, health and education.

A further aggravating fact is the perception that government officials are corrupt. This increases distrust in government

institutions.

It appears that our tax money is being squandered 'waaa waaa'. There are many misplaced priorities in the way tax monies are being used.

Moreover, the little brain in my tiny head tells me that the government must have a system to check whether people qualified to pay taxes are paying the right taxes. These taxes, when collected, must be well accounted for and properly used to the benefit of the people.

A further aggravating fact is the perception that government officials are corrupt. This increases distrust in government institutions.

In religion, many Christians willingly pay their form of taxes, that is, tithes because surely, they will have their rewards through blessings

from God Almighty. The book of Malachi reads in part that "bring one tenth of your income into the house of God and see if I will not open heavens gates upon you." Can the government in a similar vein also say to citizens: "Pay your taxes and see whether you'll not have better amenities – roads, schools, hospitals, social security, etc.?"

Integrity Spotlight



"Integrity is the first step to true greatness. - Men love to praise, but are slow to practise it. - , Charles Simmons - American Clergy

Promoting Transparency and Accountability in the Management of Basic School Resources

Ghana Integrity Initiative (GII) under the MISEREOR Project, 'Promoting Transparency and Accountability in School Management' implemented training workshops in three districts with the aim of empowering key stakeholders, mainly school management committees (SMCs) and parent/teacher associations in selected schools to demand transparency, accountability and participation from school authorities. These workshops were also used as a platform for the formation of two monitoring and evaluation (M&E) teams for each of the three districts. The M&E groups will help with the monitoring processes in schools and school governance in general.

On behalf of GII, Mrs. Mary Awelana Addah, Senior Programmes and Research Officer, introduced the Misereor project and its goal of promoting transparency and accountability in basic school governance. She linked the need to carry out the project to the findings of GII's Africa Education Watch Project, which highlighted weak governance structures in primary education, poor



Participants during a group discussion at promoting transparency and accountability in School Management at Ga West.

record keeping, the lack of transparency and accountability in the management of schools, and poor linkages between PTA/SMCs and the schools.

According to Mrs. Addah, this was why the Misereor education project was initiated to support PTA/SMCs in selected schools to monitor and track the application of the capitation grant, the school feeding programme and school resources in general. It is also intended to build the capacity of parents and their representatives to participate actively in the management of basic schools, empower SMCs/PTAs to monitor resource utilisation in basic schools to reduce leakages in resource flows, and to improve the quality of basic education in the country.

Other objectives of the project included sensitizing other stakeholders to play their roles efficiently towards improving access to quality basic education and finally, to form groups in each districts referred to as M&E teams, to enhance the monitoring process.

Topics treated during the two-day workshop included:

- Corruption, its causes, effects and impact on development;
- Participation of PTA/SMCs in School Records Management;
- Planning and Managing School Finances, mainly the Capitation Grant;

- The need for monitoring and evaluation in the management of basic schools;
- Formation of Community based Monitoring and Evaluation Teams (COBMETS);
- Development of Community Action Plans or work plans and development of budgets for the COBMETS.

Each district was represented by 10 schools and had headteachers, school management committees and PTA chairpersons attending. Circuit Supervisors were also invited to the workshop to learn and replicate in their schools the concepts being proposed. Officials from the district directorates served as facilitators with the main facilitator coming from GII.

At the end of the workshops, some participants volunteered to constitute themselves into COBMETS, each comprising nine members, representing both rural and urban schools in the three selected districts. In all, six COBMETS were established. The COBMETS also developed action plans and budgets which would guide them in the implementation of their activities for the first term of the 2011/2012 academic year.

THOUGHTS OF GOLD

"He is richest who is content with the least, for content is the wealth of nature" -

SOCRATES-Greek philosopher.

GII Activities for the quarter (July-September, 2011)



Mr. Vitus Adaboo Azeem, Executive Director of Ghana Integrity Initiative granting an interview to the press after the launch of the Ghana National Water Supply Integrity Study.



A cross-section of participants at the launch of the Ghana National Water Supply Integrity Study.



A group picture of participants of the Social Auditing Club (SAC) at Somyanya.



Mr. Samuel Akuamoah congratulating the executive after an induction ceremony at the SAC at Somyanya.



A group picture of participants with the MCE of New Juaben, Hon. Alex Asamoah (in smock) at an ALAC Outreach programme.



Mrs. Mary Addah, Sr. Programmes/Research Officer of GII making a point during the revamping of the SAC in the Atebubu/Amantin District of the Brong-Ahafo Region.



A group picture of participants at an ALAC Outreach programme in Nkawkaw.



A group discussion by participants at an ALAC Outreach Programme in Koforidua.

GII Activities for the quarter (July-September, 2011)



Participants at a workshop at Ahafo-Ano South, in the Ashanti Region on promoting Transparency and Accountability in schools.



A facilitator, Mad. Rita Mensah, the Budget Officer of the Ahafo-Ano South GES facilitating a session during the workshop.



Participants at the workshop to promote Transparency and Accountability in school management at Assin-South, Central Region.



A group picture of participants during the workshop for promoting Transparency and Accountability in schools at Assin-South.



A group picture of participants of the SAC at Shama in the Central Region.



Nana Ntiri Twum-Barimah II Krontihene of Denkyira Traditional Area introducing new executive members of the SAC at Dunkwa.



Newly inducted executive members of the Twifo-Praso branch of the SAC in a group picture.



Participants during a group discussion on formulating their M & E budgets at Ga-West.

PRESS STATEMENT

Issued By The Ghana Integrity Initiative

A TIME TO STAND UP AND BE COUNTED – GHANA'S PARLIAMENT

The first ever Pan African Conference on Access to Information (PACAI) took place in Cape Town, South Africa recently. Alongside this conference, Highway Africa also held the world's largest annual meeting of African journalists, marking the 15th Anniversary of the organisation. Several Ghanaian organizations, including the Ghana Journalists Association and Ghana Integrity Initiative, were represented at the Conference. At the same time, advocates in Cape Town undertook a match for the Right to Know to oppose the introduction of a "public interest" clause into an amendment to the "Secrecy Bill" that is pending before the South African Parliament.

As part of the conference proceedings Mr. Edetaen Ojo, director of Media Rights Agenda, and Mr. Malcolm Joseph, executive director of the Center for Media Studies and Peace-Building (CEMESP), were recognised for their successful advocacy and the consequent enactment of freedom of information (FoI) laws in Nigeria and Liberia, respectively. Ten African countries have so far enacted FoI laws but these two countries are the only ones in West Africa.

Awards to the advocates were made by the Nigerian Minister for Information and Communication and the Liberian Deputy Minister of Information. Several South African government officials attended the conference and took an active part in the proceedings while supporting the passage of the Freedom of Information laws in other African countries.

It is time for Ghana's Parliament to also live up to its responsibility to the electorate and pass the Right to Information Bill into law without any further delay. Ghana must stand up and be counted among West Africa's democracies that have a freedom of information law. It is very sad that our Parliament finds various

excuses for delaying the passage of the Bill. Under both the New Patriotic Party (NPP) and the National Democratic Congress (NDC), we have seen bills passed under emergency at the speed of light. The

Representation of the People Amendment Bill

(ROPAL), was one such bill. In some situations, parliamentarians have been recalled from recess to approve bills at an unknown cost to the tax payers of this country. The recent passage of the \$3 billion Chinese loan is a case in point.

The Right to Information Bill is more important than all these bills because the RTI legislation will help ensure that processes, be they electoral or procurement processes, are followed through for the benefit of the

majority of Ghanaians because citizens will be able to monitor these processes.

Ghanaians need to know how loans are spent, contracts that will be awarded, who the contracts will be awarded to and the basis for awarding them. This will certainly provide the fertile ground for promoting good governance, economic growth and poverty reduction.

The President has promised Ghanaians a transparent and accountable government, but it is difficult to envisage how this can be made possible without the passage of the Right to Information Bill.

Every citizen, including members of the executive and parliament, and regardless of political affiliation, is a key stakeholder in the fight for transparency and access to information. For example, a recent report by Publish What You Pay Norway, which campaigns for transparent accounting among oil, gas and mining giants, claims that populations in resource-rich countries are losing out because they are unable to extract financial information from businesses operating on their soil or off their seaboard. Citizens are unable to hold their politicians and the companies that extract oil, gas and minerals to account because of the opaque way they operate and the use of secret accounts.

Regional Consultations

Admittedly, the Joint Committee on Legal, Constitutional, and Parliamentary Affairs and Communication has just completed regional consultations and will hopefully proceed to getting the necessary amendments of the bill to the appropriate authorities. However, we would like to restate the Right to Information Coalition's concern about the unsatisfactory manner the regional consultations were conducted, including

invitations at short notice and inadequate publicity to members of the public. All the same, we hope that the consultations will enable Parliament address the gaps in the Bill, some of which have been pointed out by the RTI Coalition. Parliament should proceed to the next stage without any further delay.

Call for Action

Ghana Integrity Initiative (GII) wishes to call on our august Parliament to pass the Right to Information Bill promptly to enable Ghana to be counted among the countries that have freedom to information legislation. Ghana must become the 11th African country to have a Right to Information law.

Ghana Integrity Initiative (GII) wishes to call on our august Parliament to enact the Right to Information Bill promptly to enable Ghana to be counted among the countries that have freedom to information legislation. Ghana must become the 11th African country to have a Right to Information law.

FORMATION OF SOCIAL AUDITING CLUBS IN THREE DISTRICTS

The Ghana Integrity Initiative, (GII), under the MISEREOR funded “Further Support to the Anti-Corruption Work of GII” project, has held capacity building and sensitization workshops in over 60 metropolitan, municipal and district assemblies across the country in collaboration with the National Commission for Civic Education (NCCE) since 2004. The purpose of these workshops was to educate the public on the negative effects of corruption on society and enhance good governance through effective decentralised systems as well as to empower citizens with a voice to demand accountability and transparency from their duty bearers and service providers.

As part of follow-up activities to these workshops, GII formed Social Auditing Clubs (SAC) out of four of the last eight workshops held. The SAC concept enables or brings together community members to identify focal areas of concern to their communities and to voluntarily audit projects or services in their communities. In effect, the SAC enhances transparency and accountability and this is what GII as an organization stands for.

The successes chalked from two of the SACs in the Volta Region, encouraged GII to replicate the concept in other districts, including the Twifo Heman, Lower Denkyira and Shama districts in the Central and Western regions. Follow-up workshops to revamp activities of existing clubs were also conducted in two districts, namely Yilo Krobo in the Eastern Region and Atebubu-Amantin district in the Brong Ahafo region.

At these workshops, the district directors of the NCCE lauded the SAC initiative and pledged their commitment towards its effective implementation. On behalf of GII, Mrs. Mary Awelana Addah, Senior Programmes and Research

Officer, thanked participants for attending and recounted proceedings, purpose and outcomes of the previous year's workshops. She also stressed the need for the formation of more social auditing clubs to empower participants to put learning into practice, thereby promoting transparency and accountability in their communities.

The facilitator for the workshops, Mr. Samuel Akuamoah, Director of Public Education, NCCE headquarters, reiterated the need for the formation of SACs to empower citizens to assess the performance of public policies, programmes and projects so as to influence the development process positively.

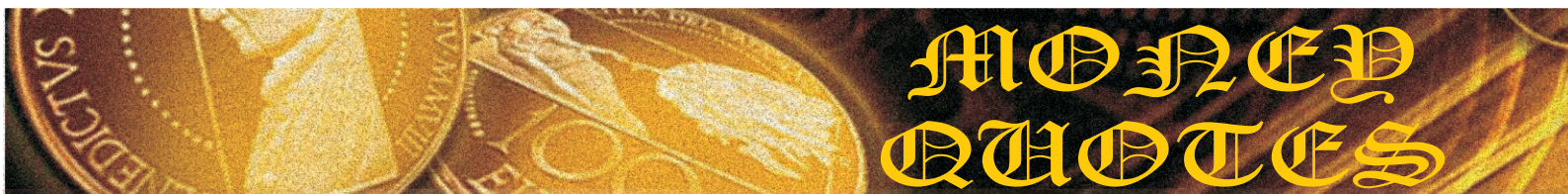
Mr. Akuamoah said concerned citizens' groups and other community level initiated groups can audit unit committees, district assembly officials, contracts and various infrastructural projects. He noted that in social auditing, the following were very important: economy of performance, efficiency of performance and effectiveness of performance. He said some useful tools such as brainstorming, focus group discussions, citizens or community group discussions, were essential for the effective operations of

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However, some of the following were emphasized as important elements in the formation of any social auditing club: non-partisan approach to issues, voluntarism, patriotism and emphasis on local initiative and drive.

Mr. Akuamoah also mentioned the need for modesty and decorum in the work of social auditors to make it effective. At the end of the workshops, executive members were elected/appointed to various positions.



“Money does all things; for it gives and it takes away, it makes honest men and knaves, fools and philosophers; and so on to the end of the chapter.”

-Sir Roger L' Estrange, (1616-1704 English Journalist

CORRUPTION ISSUES IN AFRICA AND AROUND THE GLOBE



RWANDA

SPOTLIGHT: GENDER AND CORRUPTION

'Are Women Less Corrupt Than Men'

The 2011 Nobel Peace Prize has put women's rights in the spotlight. Gender and corruption have been on Transparency International's radar for some time. Our global corruption survey found that women perceive higher levels of corruption than men, but were less likely to report it. Last month Transparency Rwanda published a survey on gender-based corruption in the workplace. Last year we published a working paper on the issue. In this article, published on the Anti-Corruption Research Network last year, Farzana Nawaz, programme coordinator in the Research and Knowledge Group of the TI secretariat, introduces the issue and some of the problems dealing with the gender angle.

Gender and corruption is a surprisingly recent issue in anti-corruption scholarship. The first wave of research into the gendered dimensions of corruption focused on whether women are more or less corruptible than men, and whether the promotion of women in public life can be an effective anticorruption strategy. A second line of enquiry examined the impact of corruption on women as a group, building on the growing evidence that corruption has a disproportionate impact on vulnerable groups in society. Both of these strands of research have already generated a wealth of policy-relevant insights that advance our understanding of the interplay between corruption and gender.

Are Women Less Corrupt than Men?

Several early, mainly econometric contributions to this discussion claimed that there is indeed a link between higher representation of women in government and lower levels of corruption. An influential study of 150 countries in Europe, Africa and Asia by the World Bank, for example, came to the conclusion that women are more trustworthy and less prone to corruption, a finding later corroborated by additional research from the World Bank.

However, the concept that women inherently possess greater integrity has been challenged. Anne Marie Goetz argues that this idea fails to account for the ways in which gender relations may limit women's opportunities to engage in corruption, particularly when corruption functions through all-male networks and forums from which women are excluded.

It has also been argued that liberal democratic institutions which provide more effective checks on corruption are also 'fairer systems' that promote gender equality. Therefore, they provide a better explanation for the co-existence of higher female representation and less corruption.

Regardless of whether a causal relationship can be established between greater presence of women in public life and lower levels of corruption, a number of interesting differences in attitudes and behaviour with regard to corruption have been empirically confirmed. Transparency International's Global Corruption Barometer, an annual survey of more than 60,000 households in more than 60 countries has consistently found that women are less likely than men to pay bribes. These results reinforce findings by Swamy et al. who analyzed gender differences in attitudes about the acceptability of different forms of corruption. The authors found that women are less involved in bribery, and are less likely to condone bribe taking, leading to the conclusion that there is a worldwide "gender difference in tolerance for corruption".

Some scholars have suggested that women and men relate to corruption differently due to differences in risk-taking behaviour. It is hypothesized that women's particular role in society, which entrusts them with the care of children and elders in the family, makes them more averse to risk. Therefore, in professional settings they are less likely to engage in corruption for fear of being caught and losing their jobs. Laboratory corruption experiments confirmed this hypothesis, finding that women tend to react more strongly to the risk of detection.

Research Reveals Gendered Differences in Impact of Corruption

According to a 2008 report by UNIFEM, women are more vulnerable to the impact of corruption than men. This is particularly true of corruption in public service delivery. As women form a larger proportion of the poor and take primary responsibility for child care, they are more reliant on freely provided public services. As a result, corruption in public service delivery has a disproportionate impact on women.

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Let's take the health sector, for example. Women have differentiated and greater needs for health services - they are exposed to greater health challenges in their reproductive years, including risks of more frequent and potentially more dangerous interventions than men, and need special care during pregnancy and delivery. Studies conducted in Bangalore, South India, indicated that one out of two women in maternity hospitals had to pay extra money for a physician to be present at birth. After childbirth, the research found that a staggering 70 percent of patients were asked to pay to see their own babies.

Corruption can also have gender-specific manifestations. For example, women and girls are often subjected to sexual extortion in lieu of bribes to get access to schooling or for good grades. A study in Botswana found that 67 percent of girls reported sexual harassment by teachers. This has grave consequences as 11 percent of the girls surveyed seriously considered dropping out of school due to harassment and 10 percent consented to sexual relations for fear of reprisals. Women also form a larger portion of refugees in post-conflict countries or in cases of natural disaster. According to UNFPA, women and children form 75 to 80 percent of refugees and displaced populations. Since aid workers are often men, this creates ample opportunities for abuse of entrusted power and many cases have been documented around the world of sexual exploitation of displaced women at the hands of male aid workers.

Source: Anti-corruption research news (Transparency International)

Lessons for Ghana

In Ghana, women seek basic services such as water and sanitation, health care and education not only for themselves but also for their children and other family members. This makes them highly vulnerable to corruption. This means that any policy that seeks to address gender inequality and poverty must target corruption as well as, especially in service delivery. This is because corruption deprives women, their children and other marginalized groups in society of access to quality basic social services. A word of caution: while we fight to get more women into decision-making positions, we must also ensure that we look for women with integrity.

BRAZIL

Brazilian Journalists win investigative journalism award for probe on diversion of public funds.

A series of reports published in the Brazilian newspaper *Gazeta do Povo* and broadcast on RPC-TV detailing the alleged misuse of public funds by the Brazilian state of Parana's Legislative Assembly were named the winner of this year's Latin American Investigative Journalism Award, given annually by Transparency International and the Press and Society Institute (Instituto Prensa y Sociedad).

Journalists James Alberti, Katia Brembatti, Karlos Kohlbach, and Gabriel Tabatcheik received the award during the 3rd Latin American Conference on Investigative Journalism (COLPIN 2011) in Guayaquil, Ecuador. Second and third place went to reporters from El Salvador and Argentina, respectively.

The two-year long investigation by the winning journalists from Brazil revealed that millions of dollars in public funds were being diverted by the assembly. The investigation also claimed that the assembly's public records were not systematically documented and that accessing information which was meant to be publicly available, was almost impossible.

As a result of the reports, the Public Ministry opened investigations and the assembly introduced greater oversight to hirings and improved processes for accessing public information.

Second prize went to El Salvadorian journalist Carlos Dada from *ElFaro.net* for uncovering crucial details in the murder of Monsignor Oscar Romero, the fourth Archbishop of San Salvador, including the confession of a key perpetrator.

Hugo Alconada from the Argentinean daily *La Nación* received third prize for bringing to light the reported use by the government of information from the official financial investigations agency as a weapon against political opponents. A further 14 reports from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay and Peru received special mentions.

The winners were chosen from 183 nominations received from across Latin America. The jury consists of prominent investigative journalists from the region.

Source: Transparency International

Lessons for Ghana

We must recognize the vital role that investigative journalists play in exposing corruption even at the risk of their lives and jobs. Recognition, however, should go beyond giving them awards. The main purpose of their work is to help the

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appropriate authorities to act on corruption. The most valued award, therefore, must necessarily include acting on the findings of their investigations. This is what gives them happiness: that their efforts have not been in vain. This is a big challenge to our leaders.

FRANCE

Make Aid Transparent

The Make Aid Transparent campaign is a coalition of 98 civil society organizations who have come together to call on donors to publish more and better information about the aid they give.

At the centre of the campaign, whose members include Oxfam International, Transparency International, One, Global Witness and 18 groups from developing countries, is a petition aimed at donor governments to make their aid more transparent.

“Providing more and better information about aid isn’t hard, and it will help save lives, reduce corruption and waste and deliver lasting positive change in the world’s poorest countries,” the petition reads.

Alongside the petition, which will be hosted at www.makeaidtransparent.org, is an animation that explains why aid transparency is important.

Amy Barry, Campaigns Director at Publish What You Fund, said “governments have promised to make their aid more transparent but so far they haven’t done enough. At the High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness at the end of the year, their promises will be tested. This campaign will demonstrate public demand for aid transparency from citizens in both donor and recipient countries.”

Other activities and actions will take place through the year, with the campaign culminating at the High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Busan, Korea from November 29-December 1.

The campaign was launched in June 2011. By July 7th over 5000 public signatures from 115 countries were being handed over to development leaders at the OECD in Paris, with over 70 organisations supporting the campaign.

Sources: www.publishwhatyoufund.org & Globalwitness.org

Lessons for Ghana

Our children and our children’s children must not be burdened with debt without the accompanying benefits. When they are paying for loans that we have taken on their behalf to build roads, they must be consoled by the fact that they are using good roads. Aid transparency is a key step in ensuring that the aid we get is used for the benefit of the majority of Ghanaians. With transparency, citizens can monitor and evaluate the use of these resources and demand value for money in whatever projects and programmes we undertake with the aid proceeds.

TAIWAN

Taiwan ex-president Chen Shui-bian gets extra jail term

Taiwan's ex-President Chen Shui-bian, who is already in jail for corruption, has been given an additional sentence for money-laundering and forgery.

The extra term of two years and eight months was imposed after a retrial at Taiwan's high court, in which Chen was acquitted of another corruption charge. He was first jailed in 2009.

Chen has accused Taiwan's current government of persecuting him to win favours with China because he strongly supported independence while in power.

At his earlier trial, Chen was sentenced to life imprisonment, a sentence which was reduced on appeal last year. In this latest case, Chen was initially found guilty of embezzling some \$5m (£3m) from a special presidential fund while he was in power. But the Supreme Court ordered a retrial last November, citing insufficient evidence.

Taiwan's High Court acquitted Chen of the charge however, it found him guilty of money laundering and forging documents and handed down the additional two-year sentence. That brings his overall sentence to about 20 years. Chen's wife, former first lady Wu Shu-chen, received a longer sentence of nearly 12 years at the retrial, but she is unlikely to spend any time in prison because of her poor health.

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Analysts say the ruling could appease Chen's supporters and help President Ma Ying-jeou, who is seeking re-election in the upcoming January presidential race.

But it could also help the opposition party which Chen once led, by giving it more leverage to accuse the governing party of playing politics in prosecutions.

Source: BBC

Lessons for Ghana

In Ghana, alleged criminal cases against politicians hardly get the attention that they deserve. After a week of media debates, mainly partisan, we tend to forget of them and eventually nothing significant is heard from the courts. The cases drag forever. Sadly, some of these people have the audacity to come back to us and ask for our votes and we give it to them without questions, sometimes in exchange for their stolen monies. We must sit up if we are serious about curbing corruption. Everybody is equal before the law and high profile politicians must be treated like the rest of us when they are accused of crime – prompt investigations and prosecutions if found appropriate.

BRAZIL

Brazil's freedom of information bill faces delays

As Brazil's president, Dilma Rousseff, struggles to control a fragile coalition government plagued by corruption scandals, getting new legislation passed quickly may prove difficult.

Brazil's long-awaited freedom of information bill, which would allow greater access to public information and records, aims to make the government more transparent and hold government officials and agencies more accountable.

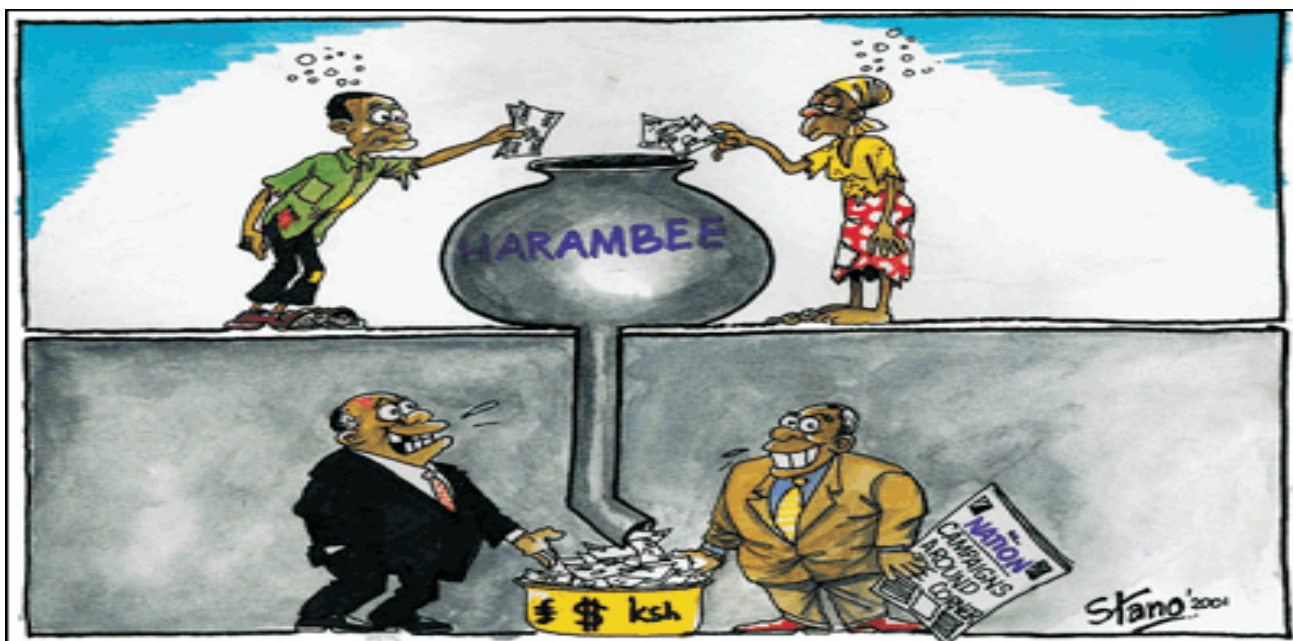
Brazilian senator, Fernando Collor, has recently proposed changes to the bill, a move that could delay it getting passed, according to the Christian Science Monitor.

It is not clear whether Rousseff has the support she needs in the Senate to get the bill passed quickly and without too many amendments

Source: *TrustLaw Scrapbookblog*

Lessons for Ghana

The year is heading towards an end and the Right to Information Bill is still pending before Parliament. Yet a recent Bill, the Data Protection Bill, is being debated and is expected to be passed into law before Parliament rises for Christmas. It will be very disappointing if the RTI is not passed again this time. We need the law as an effective tool in the fight against corruption. There should be no more excuses. We were promised "transparent and accountable governance" and we don't seem to be seeing it. Ghanaians must look for more serious promises and commitment as we head towards the 2012 elections. Politicians should be held to their promises.



Three to Four Billion Dollars Lost to Corruption Annually

Three to four billion dollars is lost to corruption annually, Mr. Franklin Cudjoe, Executive Director of the think tank Imani Ghana, has observed. Cudjoe said the figure is the likely amount if one quantifies all the waste, plain stealing, political deals, the 10 percent kick backs and the slippages from the District Assemblies Common Fund.

"Yet we beg for the same amount in donor aid every year," Mr. Cudjoe said

He was speaking at the 5th Moderatorial Business Luncheon, organized by the Presbyterian Church of Ghana on the theme: "Ghana's Economic Management and Development - The Current State of Affairs".

Referring to the Auditor General's report of 2009, Mr. Cudjoe said close to one billion dollars was lost to payroll fraud alone, meaning that the astonishing levels of ghost names drawing salaries from the government's pay roll had increased.

He criticised the justification given to the litany of taxes charged the average Ghanaian from income to punitive double digit corporate taxes with the mindset that we need government to develop the country for us. "Of what use is the exaction of certain taxes from mining, ICT, mobile, plastic industries into the so called development funds?" he asked.

Mr. Cudjoe said mobile technology could now be deployed in fighting corruption, to account for taxes paid and efficient service delivery at the local level, as India and Bangladesh have shown.

"We have become accustomed to counting only the number of mobile phone users for the sole purpose of taxing them without actually giving back any direct rewards in service delivery."

Mr. Cudjoe blamed governments' wasteful nature on the overbearing nature of the executive presidency. "Our presidency is too powerful, so coupled with a free-wheeling Parliamentary majority, the only thing it cannot do is to turn a man into a woman."

Commenting on Ghana's oil find, the policy analyst said the oil wealth signifies a source of development, not a source for risky entrepreneurial investment. Ghana should invest almost all its petro dollars in the next 5-10 years in infrastructure, roads, water, electricity and education, he suggested.

Such investments, Mr. Cudjoe said, would create rewards and prevent the infamous Dutch disease (where the economy is centred on one commodity). But he added that it was not the many models for oil management that matter, but accountable governance that does the trick.

"It is important for us to make corruption a disincentive by not treating a one million dollar theft as a misdemeanour under the current constitutional dispensation, leading to a mere three to five years sentencing only for the guilty to return from jail and enjoy the booty."

On wage levels and productivity, Mr. Cudjoe said it was not good enough to have any government in a developing country as the single largest employer since it creates a patronage system and affects productivity adversely.

On his part, Nana Owusu Afari, President of the Association of Ghana Industries (AGI) and Chairman of Afariwaa Group of Companies, advised young entrepreneurs not to use short cuts in their business since there was no short-cut to making it to the top.

He said it was possible for one to be ethical and still have a profitable business, adding that biblical principles and

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bottom-line success are not opposed to each other.

Nana Afari advised the Presbyterian Church to position itself to provide appropriate responses to the

trends of indiscipline in the country, saying "Presbyterian discipline is under threat."

Rt. Reverend Professor Emmanuel Martey, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, while praising the investment environment in Ghana, said the favourable conditions need to reflect meaningfully in the daily lives of ordinary Ghanaians.

"Our faith as a church compels us to embark upon constructive engagement with government and political leadership to promote sustainable development," he said. As a reformed church deeply rooted in the core value of democracy and in line with the church's corporate vision and mission, our focus is always to use the word of God to liberate and empower the suffering masses.

Source: Ghana/Joy News, October 26, 2011
<http://business.myjoyline.com/pages/news/20/110/75429.php>