

# GII HOLDS ZONAL INCEPTION MEETINGS FOR THE ADISS PROJECT

Jacob Tetteh Ahuno - Programmes Officer, GII

n the quest to curb corruption in Ghana, many statutes to address corruption have been passed, including the Whistleblowers Act, 2006 (Act 720), the Financial Administration Act, 2003 (Act 654) and its accompanying Regulations and the Public Procurement Act. 2003 (Act 663). Ghana has also produced a National Anti-Corruption Action Plan (NACAP) which has been endorsed by Parliament. A number of oversight and accountability institutions have also been established. These laws and institutions together with stakeholders like Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and other citizens' groups are expected to collectively work on curbing the canker of corruption. Throughout the world, it has become widely acknowledged that

fighting corruption is a complex undertaking which requires the collective effort of all stakeholders. It is in the light of this that the Ghana Integrity Initiative (GII), Ghana Anti-Corruption Coalition (GACC) and SEND-Ghana, with funding support from the United States Agency for International



Development (USAID), is implementing a four-year project focused on civil society and government institutions strengthening. The project is titled **Accountable Democratic Institutions and Systems Strengthening (ADISS)** 

This project has been designed with the intention to renew and build upon ongoing efforts and also increase the capacities of anti-corruption CSOs to motivate citizens to apply pressure on policy makers and institutions through a number of targeted and focused actions

with the aim of reducing corruption in Ghana. The three organizations have together formed the GII Consortium to implement this project of which GII is the Lead Organization.

The project has two main components which are as follows:

- 1. Increased advocacy by civil society for legislative change related to accountability;
- 2. Increased documentation and exposure of corruption through civil society reporting mechanisms.

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## E D I T O R I A L JUSTICE DELAYED IS JUSTICE DENIED: THE CASE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF CHRAJ

s part of its anti-corruption mandate, the Ghana Integrity Initiative (GII) has called on the Chief Justice to demonstrate the independence and incorruptibility of Ghana's Judiciary by releasing the report of the Committee set up to investigate allegations of impropriety brought against Ms. Lauretta V. Lamptey, Commissioner of the Commission of Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ). The GII Alert fully endorses the action by GII.

The Ghanaian people on whose behalf the Commission was set up can no longer stand the stony silence on the matter and deserve the right to know why the investigations have still not been concluded. If, on the other hand, the investigations have been concluded the findings should be swiftly made known to Ghanaians. This is the only way to go if the Judiciary wishes to maintain its credibility.

The case of Ms Lauretta V. Lamptey initially raised the hopes of many Ghanaians that the Rule of Law was at last taking roots. They had, therefore, expected prompt investigation of the matter so that justice will no longer appear as a mirage but actually be delivered in practice. But eight long months later, the case seems to have run into quicksand; nothing has been heard from the Committee or the Chief Justice. This continuous silence on the matter seems to be telling Ghanaians that the Judiciary is probably going down the same lane as the Executive – susceptible to political pressures and corruption.

The Committee was set up because of the need to dispense justice, with the Commissioner given the chance to be heard. But the deafening silence may give rise to Ghanaians offering their own interpretation of the matter and that is worrying. But irrespective of whatever interpretations the underlying core is, the Commissioner as well as the Ghanaian tax payers deserve justice.

In recent times, the NDC government led by President John Mahama has yielded to pressures to investigate allegations of corruption and other types of malfeasance against various public officers. These investigations included the Judgment Debt Commission, the Brazil 2014 Commission, the Brazil 2014 Commission, the EOCO investigations into the operations of GYEEDA and the so-called investigations into the Subah Info Solutions saga, among others.

However, most of these Commissions of Inquiry have taken longer than expected to carry out their investigations, often for no obvious reason. Even when the delayed investigations have finally been completed and the reports submitted, it takes yet longer time to take action on the recommendations of the Commission. Sometimes, no action is taken at all on the recommendations and indicted public officers remain in their positions, monies stolen remain unrecovered and recommended prosecutions never take place. Furthermore, the Ghanaian citizen whose hard earned money is used to pay for the costs of these investigations never get to see the reports. This is not the mark of a government committed to transparency and the fight against corruption.

It is important that any Commission of Inquiry or Committee of investigations that is set up must be given a strict timeline to complete its assignment. This means that the members of such bodies must assure the appointing authority that they will work unimpeded and that their employers, if any, will release them for the assignment. The appointing

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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 anticorruption 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 nongovernmental organisation in the fight against curruption worldwide.

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#### EDITORIAL

authority must make sure that it avoids all legal obstacles when it comes to implementing the recommendations arising from such investigations. Apart from the uncertainties surrounding any delays and the perception of possible interference in the investigations, we must also be cautious of the costs involved. The Executive Branch may be more susceptible to political pressure even though, unacceptable, but it is even more difficult to accept that the Judiciary would yield to such pressures or even take up the image of other public institutions widely perceived to be reassuringly corrupt Following allegations of acts of impropriety by Ms Lauretta V.

Furthermore, it is important in the interest of transparency, accountability, justice and fair play to publish the reports of the investigations and swiftly take action against those indicted for improprieties. But, more importantly, we need to know why they have been cleared or found guilty. The reports must be published and the necessary action taken against those who have been indicted.

The Executive Branch may be more susceptible to political pressure even though, unacceptable, but it is even more difficult to accept that the Judiciary would yield to such of other public institutions widely perceived to be reassuringly corrupt. Following allegations of acts of impropriety by Ms Lauretta V. Lamptey, the Commissioner of the Commission for Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ), a formal complaint was brought against her. President John Dramani Mahama, "on the advice of the Judicial Council and pursuant to Article 146 (10) (b) of the 1992 Constitution of Ghana, suspended, Ms. Lauretta V. Lamptey from office. The statement suspending her stated that "the suspension follows the establishment of a prima facie

case against Ms. Lamptey by the Chief Justice, and the setting up of a fivemember committee to investigate complaints made against her." But that seems to have been all that most Ghanaians heard about the case.

*The GII Alert* believes that, if Ms. Lauretta V. Lamptey has been cleared, she should be restored to her position as the Commissioner of CHRAJ and if she has been found guilty, the necessary sanctions should apply. Justice cannot afford to be delayed, especially by the Judiciary.

"The wheels of justice", they often say, "grind slowly, "but" Justice Delayed is Justice Denied", and this seems to be applicable in the case of Ms. Lauretta V. Lamptey if the investigations delay any further. For *the GII Alert* this is the only way to go.

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#### GII HOLDS ZONAL INCEPTION MEETING FOR THE ADISS PROJECT

As part of the project implementation, GII organised a zonal inception meeting of key stakeholders with the aim of gaining stakeholders buy-in and establishing a common understanding amongst them of the project objectives. The meeting was also aimed at getting the stakeholders to identify legislative and institutional gaps in the fight against corruption in Ghana for our advocacy.

The zonal inception meeting was held in Koforidua in the Eastern region on Friday June 19, 2015. The meeting brought together a total number of 49 people from across three regions (Brong Ahafo, Eastern and Volta regions), as the participants from the Greater Accra region were to join their colleagues later for a similar meeting in Accra. The participants were drawn from the Regional Coordinating Council (RCC), National Commission for Civic Education (NCCE), Economic and Organised Crime Office (EOCO), Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ), Police Service, Media, District Assemblies, Judicial Service, Audit Service, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) working on governance and anti-corruption,

Regional Houses of Chiefs and citizens' groups (Social Auditing Clubs).

The workshop adopted the learning and sharing approach where four presentations were made. The first presentation, delivered by the then Acting Programmes Manager of GII, Mrs. Mary Awelana Addah, was on manifestations of corruption in the Ghanaian society.



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This was followed by a presentation by the Brong Ahafo CHRAJ Regional Anti-Corruption Officer, Rev. Appiah Kubi, on the legislative and institutional framework for the fight against corruption in Ghana. The third presentation, which gave an overview, components and key activities of the ADISS project and role of key stakeholders of the ADISS Project, was delivered by the ADISS Project Coordinator, Mrs. Joyce Danquah. The final presentation was delivered by the Programme Officer of GII, Mr. Jacob Ahuno. He talked about the Advocacy and Legal Advice Centre (ALAC) and the "IPaidABribe" internet platform as corruption reporting tools and avenues under the ADISS project.

Speaking at the function, the Brong-Ahafo Regional Anti-Corruption Officer of the Commission on Human **Rights and Administrative Justice** (CHRAJ), Rev Appiah Kubi, called for the review of the Act establishing the anti-corruption agencies. He called for the review to enable CHRAJ prosecute cases that they have investigated without referring them to the Attorney-General's Department. He also called for the provision of adequate resources to CHRAJ to be able to fulfil its mandate, and suggested the restructuring of the Commission for some of its

responsibilities to be taken away.

Mrs. Mary A. Addah, the then Acting Programmes Manager of GII, called for the passage of the Right to Information Bill into Law, to empower citizens to question the actions and inactions of public office holders. She emphasized the need for access to information as it is key to promoting transparency and accountability and promoting citizens' trust in institutions and public officeholders, thereby reducing the perception of corruption.

Participants demonstrated their understanding of the project through various suggestions and questions. For example, some of the participants agreed with the presentation on the legislative and institutional framework for the fight against corruption in Ghana by calling for a review of the mandate of CHRAJ. They felt that the mandate of the anticorruption body was too broad and that there was a need to cede some of its responsibilities to another body to enable CHRAJ function properly and effectively. Participants were unanimous in the view that, to make the fight against corruption effective, influential people must stop or be prevented from intervening in corruption cases. Again, participants said the proposed research aimed at costing corruption and its effects on the individual and the country is a laudable initiative and will help to change the approach used in campaigning against corruption. They called on religious bodies to play a significant role in the fight against

corruption as such institutions are seen as the epitome of integrity. While praising the steps the project was going to adopt in the fight against corruption, some participants wished that the project calls on government to introduce technology in the fight against corruption. This will erase the increasing human factor when dealing with public officers.

The end of the meeting, the stakeholders agreed to contribute to the following:

- Introduce ADISS as well as the GII Consortium to district officers.
- Accept lodged complaints from citizens who might have submitted same via Project citizen groups.
- Help build capacity of citizens to demand accountability from government
- Help identify and address gaps in the advocacy efforts towards legal reforms within the project
- Support community mobilisation activities
- Provide resource persons during public sensitisation meetings and workshops.
- Maintain strong partnership links in the implementation of activities
- Support project with its research data
- Provide media coverage on GII anti-corruption activities

The ADISS project is being implemented in fifty (50) districts across all ten (10) regions of Ghana. Being a member of the Consortium, GII is working in 17 districts in the Eastern, Brong Ahafo, Volta and Greater Accra regions.



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## PRESS STATEMENT ISSUED BY GHANA INTEGRITY INITIATIVE (GII) ON 25<sup>™</sup> AUGUST, 2015

#### JUSTICE DELAYED IS JUSTICE DENIED: THE CASE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF CHRAJ

n recent times, the John Mahamaled administration has yielded to pressures to investigate allegations of corruption and other types of malfeasance against various public officers. These investigations included the Judgment Debt Commission, the Brazil 2014 Commission, EOCO investigations into the operations of GYEEDA and the so-called investigations into the Subah Info Solutions saga, among others. The pressures for action have often come from Civil Society Organizations, the media, social commentators and a cross section of citizens across the political divide interested in promoting transparency and accountability.

However, most of these Commissions of Inquiry have taken longer than expected to carry out their investigations, often for no obvious reason. Even when the delayed investigations have finally been completed and the reports submitted, it takes a lot more time to take action on the recommendations of these Commissions. Sometimes, no action is taken at all on the recommendations and public officers that have been indicted remain in their positions, monies stolen remain unrecovered and recommended prosecutions never take place. Furthermore, citizens whose hard earned money is used to pay for the costs of these investigations never get to see the reports of these commissions due to the lack of transparency and openness that underline such investigative processes. This raises a lot of questions and concerns.

The inaction by the President on reports of Commissions of Inquiry and other investigations may be attributed to several factors, including political pressures from party financiers and faithfuls who are indicted. Pressures may also come from involvement of people high up in the party or government who feel threatened by further revelations if action is taken against the indicted officers or who feel that their indicted tribesmen should not be penalized for the improprieties or possible benefits of the ruling party from the improprieties.

However, one must not assume that everybody against whom allegations of corruption have been made would have been indicted by these Commissions and Committees and they are all necessarily guilty. It is, therefore, important in the interest of transparency, accountability, justice and fair play to publish the reports of the investigations and act on the findings. Citizens need to know the results of these investigations, particularly those who have been cleared, those who have been indicted and the proposed recommendations arising from the findings of the investigations. But, more importantly, we need to know why they have been cleared or found guilty. The reports must be published and the Attorney General should take the necessary action against those who have been indicted.

It is unacceptable for any arm of government to yield to political pressures when it comes to addressing governance issues but it is even worse when citizens perceive the Judiciary to vield to such pressures or even fall victim to other factors such as corruption in its various forms. Following the allegations of impropriety by the Commissioner of the Commission for Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ), Ms Lauretta V. Lamptey, and a formal complaint made against her, President John Dramani Mahama, "on the advice of the Judicial Council and pursuant to Article 146 (10) (b) of the 1992 Constitution of Ghana, suspended from office, Ms. Lauretta V. Lamptey, Commissioner for the Commission on Human Rights & Administrative Justice (CHRAJ)." The statement suspending her stated that "the suspension follows the establishment

of a prima facie case against Ms. Lamptey by the Chief Justice and the setting up of a five (5)-member committee to investigate complaints made against her." This seems to have been all that most Ghanaians heard about the case.

Many Ghanaians saw this as a sign of adherence to the Rule of Law and expected prompt investigation of the matter so that justice will not only be seen to be delivered but actually delivered. However, eight months down the year, nothing has been heard from the Committee or the Chief Justice. The continued silence of the Committee and the Chief Justice on the matter seems to be telling Ghanaians that the Judiciary could be going down the same lane as the Executive. The Committee was set up because justice needed to be served and the Commissioner needed to be given the chance to be heard. However, the long silence is worrying and many Ghanaians may give different interpretations to this silence. But whatever interpretations people give to this silence, the Commissioner, on her part, and the Ghanaian tax payers deserve justice and the silence on the matter does not serve this purpose. It is often said "Justice Delayed is Justice Denied" and this seems to be the position with this case

If Ms. Lauretta V. Lamptey has been cleared, she should be restored to her position as the Commissioner of CHRAJ and if she has been found guilty, the necessary sanctions should apply. Justice cannot afford to be delayed, especially by the Judiciary.

As part of its anti-corruption mandate, GII, therefore, calls on the Chief Justice to display the independence and the incorruptible nature of Ghana's Judiciary by releasing the report if it is ready or by informing Ghanaians why the investigations have still not been concluded. This is the only way to go if the Judiciary hopes to maintain its credibility.

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#### Signed

Vitus A. Azeem Executive Director – GII

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# THE SUSTAINABILITY BAND WAGON- IS GHANA ON BOARD?

By Seyram Awushie Agbemenya, (Senior Programme and Research Officer)

#### Sustainability Principles

he word sustainability is a key word in modern development the Merriam Webster Dictionary describes the word to mean "to be able to be used without completely being used up or destroyed" and "ability to last or *continue for a long time*". Although the term sustainability was widely used in conservation and environmental disciplines, in recent years, it has become a term widely accepted in other disciplines and areas of management, especially in development, as development can never be truly complete if it is not sustainable. Sustainability has come to be viewed as the key ingredient to the success of every development venture. The recognition of sustainability as a key ingredient in global development gave birth to the term "Sustainable Development".

Thus, the later part of the 1990s and the early 2000s saw a radical shift in the thinking of governments, key institutions and development practitioners across the globe on sustainable development. All major activities and developmental programs were developed based on sustainability principles, with the aim of deriving benefits both economically, socially and environmentally. However, in recent years, sustainability has been largely seen as the way to do things if any country is serious about attaining tangible results towards its development.

Figure 1: The Dominant Model<sup>1</sup>



The implementation of the sustainability concept has derived momentous benefits for many nations across the globe. To enumerate countries that have capitalized on sustainable development principles and made giant strides, one can quickly think of the so called Nordic Countries, Sweden, Denmark, and Norway who have invested in sustainable systems for development. Significant to note is Norway, a country that has huge fossil fuel reserves but has invested in alternative renewable sources of energy to ensure that the country's development is not based on its finite resources but on renewable and sustainable resources. Here, the "ability to last or continue for a long time" as seen in the definition comes to play. One cannot fully talk about sustainability without mentioning Denmark's giant strides especially in environmental sustainability and energy. This small Nordic country has not made its size and geographical vulnerability limit it, as it has made great strides to ensure the country's development is set on the sustainable development path.

In the so called "Global Leaders" of sustainable development, the term sustainability is not only limited to the big things but also to the small things. Their infrastructure is also well planned and construction is done in the most sustainable nature to ensure energy is conserved. Infrastructure is also constructed in the best and robust way possible so as to ensure value for money. Where these principles are strongly imbedded in development projects, there is no room for shoddy work and more effort is put in developing the best structures possible.

#### Sustainability at Work in Africa

One does not need to go all the way across the cold Baltic Sea to witness sustainable development principles at work. Here in Africa, there are equally shining examples of sustainable development principles. Rwanda is the first country that comes to mind when I think of sustainable development in Africa. This is not because they are the best, but because this tiny East African country has overcome their gloomy past in a short space of time – coming from a bloody genocide, to becoming one of the great icons of sustainable development in Africa. And of course, one cannot talk about sustainable development in Africa without mentioning South Africa. They could very well be the icon of sustainable development on the continent. Although their efforts continue to be fraught with challenges, South Africa is a "work-in progress" and presents opportunities for other African countries like Ghana to learn from its lessons on good practices and challenges.

Fully understanding the benefits that can be derived from sustainable development principles, I constantly wonder why it appears that our great nation has not imbibed any of the sustainable development principles. This is perhaps because none of the broad benefits of sustainability, social, economic and environmental benefits, are readily visible to the average Ghanaian just as is visible in all the countries mentioned, although they may appear in varying degrees.

# What Does Sustainability Mean to the Average Ghanaian?

Thoughts of why a country like Ghana, "the beacon of democracy in Africa" is not capitalizing on the benefits of sustainability principles for national development continue to linger in my mind, and I ask myself, "What does sustainability mean to the average Ghanaian?" I attempted to answer this question and here is what I came out with:

"For me, living in an era of sustainable development means when I am driving on a highway, I should be confident that the road has been constructed to the best of standards and not looking out to dodge pot holes, or hope I make it out of potentially dangerous road intersections alive because the traffic lights do not function".....

. The Dominant Model of sustainable development. Adopted from; Mebratu., D (1998). Sustainability and Sustainable Development: Historical and Conceptual Review, Environ Impact Asses Rev 1998;18:493–520

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#### CONTD. FROM PAGE 6 THE SUSTAINABILITY BAND WAGON- IS GHANA ON BOARD?

"It also means that the nation has an effective developmental plan which is overseen by key national institutions to ensure that our cities are effectively planned" .....

"This means residential areas will be well planned, commercial areas will be well planned and authorities make sure gas filing stations are sighted far away from commercial and residential areas".....

"Sustainability to me means that my taxes are being used effectively among other national resources to ensure good standards of living for all Ghanaians"......

"It also means Ghana has been able to develop alternate contemporary renewable sources of energy which can support or even replace the national grid to ensure electricity is available and accessible to all Ghanaians at all times".....

"Sustainable development to me, also means the government and lawmakers are formulating and implementing policies and laws that will improve the livelihoods and general standard of Ghanaians living in this county"..... "Finally Sustainable development to me means that I can fully trust in national institutions (The Police, CHRAJ, Ghana Immigration Service, Judicial Service) to have my best interest and that of Ghana at heart in the spirit of national development, to ensure my rights are upheld and my responsibilities are adequately discharged".

My list of what sustainable development means could go on and on, this shows that sustainable development principles should cut across all sectors of the country and the results of such principles should be readily felt by the average Ghanaian.

This is what sustainable development means to me and these are just some of the international standards that any nation seeking to develop should aspire to achieve. No nation can fully develop until it ensures systems are strengthened to ensure the general well-being of its citizens. As the first country to gain independence in the Sub-Saharan Africa, Ghana must be among the countries at the forefront of sustainable development on the continent if not the world. Unfortunately Ghana is lagging behind and still shows no impetuous of wanting to catch up with its peers.

Are you feeling any result of these principles in your life as a Ghanaian? I leave it to you to judge!



#### FOR OUR DEAR COUNTRY, GHANA? Anita Ayuah, Assistant Programmes Officer, GII

he 2014 Corruption Perception Index (CPI), which was released by Transparency International, revealed that Ghana ranks 61 out of 175 countries/territories by their perceived levels of public sector corruption in the world. The Ghana Police Service has also been ranked and perceived as the number one most corrupt institution in the country by a similar study. The 2013 Global Corruption Barometer released by Transparency International revealed that the perception of corruption in Ghana has worsened in the last two years and the Ghana Police Service has for the third time topped the list of public organizations perceived to be the most corrupt with political parties, the Judiciary, and the Education system following in that order. The ranking is not peculiar to Ghana as revealed by several past Global Corruption Barometer reports.

The Ghana Police Service, has since its inception been at the frontline of the criminal justice system of Ghana. It is clearly the most visible agency of government as the symbol of law and order. Ghana Police Service is mandated by Article 200 of the 1992 Constitution of the Republic of Ghana, and the Police Service Act 1970 (Act 350) to operate on democratic policing principles. The Police Service Act 1970 (Act 350) spells out the core functions of the service such as "protect life and property", "prevent and detect crime", "apprehend and prosecute offenders", and ensure a peaceful and safe environment.

However, a large section of the Ghanaian public does not see the police to be effectively carrying out their mandate due to the fact that they are forced to pay for some of the core services which they should receive at no cost.

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# IS THERE HOPE FOR OUR DEAR COUNTRY, GHANA?

This is further worsened by the widespread bribery at various police stations, and especially with the Motor Traffic and Transport Division (MTTD) on our roads on a day-today basis. The current trend of events has caused many to lose trust and confidence in the Ghana Police Service, sometimes resulting in instant justice by citizens. Of course, this is not acceptable in any civilized society.

Recently, I was given a ride by a colleague who had to attend an urgent meeting in Accra. Caught up in heavy traffic, my colleague tried to maneuver his way through. Watching close by were two police officers neatly dressed and standing at the end of the traffic light. They were trying to control the heavy traffic and maintain order on the streets in the midst of the confusion.

After waiting for a few hours, my colleague became impatient and tried to force his way through the traffic. This troubled many motorists and attracted verbal attacks from other motorists. Although one of the policemen observed what was happening, he totally ignored it. Again, my colleague's action was not acceptable no matter how urgent his meeting was.

Finally, we managed to escape the heavy traffic but, unfortunately, we

found ourselves in big trouble and this time with the police. My colleague answered an urgent call while still driving right by the police. This is obviously prohibited. There should be no excuse for this and when caught by a police officer, such action should attract a traffic fine.

One police officer quickly run after our car and waved his hands, asking us to stop. Initially, my friend was reluctant to stop, but in order to avoid any hot chase or more trouble with the police, he pulled over to listen to what he had to say. The police officer walked to the car and asked for the driver's license. But my colleague bluntly refused and insisted it will not be given back if he gave it to the police officer. This, however, made the police officer angry and he reached over the driver's seat and removed the car key. This act resulted in a heated argument between the two. I sat in the front seat and watched as everything went on.

After the round of heated arguments, my colleague perhaps realized there was only one way he could get to his meeting on time. He smiled at me and at that moment, I realized he had a plan. He politely asked the police officer to sit in the passenger's seat so they could resolve the issue. To my surprise, the police officer agreed and stepped into the car. My friend pulled out his wallet, removed a GHC 20 note and gave it to the police officer. With smiles, the police officer collected it and quickly told him, "You know the right thing to do but you prefer to argue and waste your own time". I was shocked and looked on with amazement. They both smiled to each other and exchanged handshakes and the police officer stepped out and handed the keys back to my friend.

I am sure we can all relate to this story in one way or the other. This experience is far too common an occurrence on the roads of our country. In all that ensued that day, only one sentence made by the police man hit me. The fact that the police man could actually refer to bribery as the right thing to do was very astonishing to me.

Hmmm .....!!!

This has kept me in deep thought and I sigh from a place of disappointment and sadness for my country. I am sad because if the police men, who are tasked to uphold the law, are willing to encourage the very citizens they are supposed to police to break the law, then where is hope for our dear country? If the enforcers of the law are ready to break the law at the least opportunity, what can ordinary citizens do? The answer is obvious... there is a lot more work for organizations like Ghana Integrity Initiative.



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By: Sofia Widforss in "Climate Change and Water" on 2015/06/05

he negotiations of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action (ADP) in the Bonn Climate Change Conference stocktaking ended on Thursday, concluding that although some progress has been made, there are still too many core issues left to be resolved for this progress to be deemed satisfactory (e.g. finance and which mechanisms to be incorporated, to name a few). While negotiations have had a steady pace and a constructive tone, the focus has unfortunately been more on language, leaving many key issues untouched.

As one delegate put it, "we have thus far only reached for the low hanging fruits".

If we are to move towards a universal, legally-binding agreement at the COP 21 in Paris, trust and confidence is needed between parties. A long-term goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions in order to limit global warming to less than 1.5C is critical, although not even this is agreed, given the 2C target limit is still on the table. This week, the negotiating text from Geneva is being streamlined, which has led to disagreements between parties and uncertainties on the proceedings of the "real negotiations". As one might expect, going through each paragraph can be rather tedious, especially when there are competing views on whether removing a word or a sentence will change the inherent meaning of the text, or weaken its sentiment. The co-chairs have suggested that work continue in facilitated groups, as well as for workstream 2.

Parties have agreed that adaptation will have a prominent place in the agreement – not only mitigation. Further, many parties wish for this agreement to have an architecture that can be used also for future commitment periods, for the structure to be applicable long-term. Then there must be room for adjusted ambitions. But the discussions at the COP 20 about a possible "dynamic agreement", that is, a mechanism that would require the continuous revision and increase of contributions to climate mitigation and adaptation over the 2020 - 2030 period, have not been as vigorous in Bonn as in Lima.

The Lima Call for Action, an outcome from COP 20, encouraged the parties of the UNFCCC to submit their domestic plans and priorities from 2020 onwards (Indented Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs)). These INDCs are believed to constitute an important part of the Paris outcome; however, few have yet been submitted. Mitigation activities have been the main focus and thus far, seem to vary significantly, in terms of baselines, for example.

An agreement in Paris is required if we are to combat climate change, and transition towards resilient, lowcarbon and sustainable societies. France, who is hosting COP 21, seems determined to have a successful outcome. This is promising. Its "Solutions Agenda" has the optimistic approach needed to spur on the necessary action prior to and during the conference in Paris. Following the current negotiations in Bonn, however, the slow pace is unfortunately cause for concern. Hopefully, France's determination and the positive feeling among the parties this week will help carry us through.

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waked by the unbearable noise from the alarm and the chickens, I quickly peeped at the alarm to check the time and it is already 4:00 in the morning. I wish I could sleep some more but unfortunately, I am left with no choice than to quickly take a shower, dress up and rush to the passport office. Today marks my second visit to the place hoping to go through all the processes this time around. The first time, I got there at exactly 8:15am and met a very long queue and quickly thought to myself "there's no way I could get this thing done" so I decided to leave and come very early the next day.

Amazed and surprised at the number of people present, I quickly turned and asked a gentleman standing by me "Are all these people here for a passport?" With a quick smile whiles nodding his head, he replied "I have been here since 5:00am with the hope of finishing on time and possibly rush to work but it seems this is impossible looking at the slow pace the queue is moving. He went on to add that "these people are just corrupt; they always want to be bribed before they give you the needed attention". This statement may sound common but carries a lot of message. It clearly draws our attention to the fact that as a country we have allowed corruption to become a normal practice in our society and is rapidly spreading like a virus, infecting every sphere of the

Ghanaian society. Corruption in Ghana is becoming worse each day and is affecting the vulnerable especially, due to their powerlessness to change the status quo and inability to pay bribes, creating inequalities that violate their basic rights of access to services they require. The impact is hindering Ghana's economic development, reducing social services, and diverting investments in infrastructure, institutions and social services into personal pockets.

It never occurred to me that getting a passport

would be so tedious and hectic until I had my own experience. It is Tuesday morning and I managed to get to the passport office at 6:30 am. I had to wake up very early to avoid the heavy traffic taking over our streets. Well, it would surprise you to know that people get there as early as 4:00am to avoid the long queues and stress for having to sit and queue for hours. As at the time I arrived the immigration officers were already present, seated and checking the documents of those present to ensure all necessary information have been provided and errors made in filling the forms are corrected, before you are allowed to move to the final stage, thus the biometric registration.

As I sat in the slow moving queue I observed a number of things, for instance officers either left their seats to collect documents or a number of passports forms were brought to them to work on. These forms were treated specially and given the needed attention, as we waited impatiently for our turn. I also observed another interesting thing, individuals called "Insiders" who provide the express service which simply means a passport within the shortest possible time or days. These people are either staff or people working closely with some of the staff. These agents are situated outside the office who

randomly approach people to help. Although risky, most people patronized and resorted to this short cut method to avoid the long procedure. Through my interaction with people around I came to a conclusion that majority of them preferred the short cut regardless of the risk involved, simply because it was faster as compared to the normal procedure. So I asked myself why we should subject ourselves to the pain of losing huge amounts to fraudsters when we can avoid this by doing the right thing.

For a second, I thought to myself, are we moving forward as a country? For how long are we going to accommodate this unhealthy practice? Now bribery and corruption has become a daily activity in Ghana. People are given royal or protocol treatments in society because of their ability to pay huge amounts of money or bribe public officials for services that are supposed to be enjoyed freely by all depriving the ordinary Ghanaian of those same service.

It is already three months and my passport is still not ready. I always visit the office with high expectations only to be disappointed each time. I went in for the "Regular" which usually takes three months to be ready and is now four months. Eventually I grew angry and fed up and decided to visit after the fourth month. Arriving there with very high expectations I was made to wait and this took so many hours. This made me impatient and virtually very angry so I decided to vent my anger on one of the officials and fortunately for me this time she followed up and brought me my passport. I guess the procedure could have been faster if probably I had tipped them a little bit right? hmmmmmm!!!!!!

This experience is not isolated to the passport office but manifests itself across sectors including national ports, revenue agencies, police service, the various ministries including education, local government, sports, health, to name a few. The fight against corruption is becoming a serious challenge and this is mainly due to the attitude of the citizenry towards corruption. The Ghanaian citizen has too much tolerance for corruption, hence, the lack of moral courage to fight the canker. The fight against bribery and corruption is universal. "Don't pay a bribe and encourage corruption but dare to be different".

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# PRESS STATEMENT MORE ENFORCEMENT AGAINST FOREIGN BRIBERY NEEDED IN SA. TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL, SOUTH AFRICA

Transparency International has today released its 2015 Progress Report, Exporting Corruption, on enforcement of the OECD's Anti-Bribery Convention to which South Africa, together with 40 other countries, is a signatory. Once again, South Africa has been found lacking in its commitment to investigate and prosecute cross-border corruption, that is, allegations of South African companies bribing foreign officials in order to secure contracts or licences and concessions.

Transparency International's progress report is an independent assessment of the enforcement of the OECD Anti-Bribery Convention. The Convention is a key instrument for curbing global corruption because the 41 signatory countries account for approximately two-thirds of the world's exports. One of the fundamental goals of the Convention is to create a corruptionfree level playing field for global trade and investment.

The report shows that South Africa has not investigated any major foreign bribery cases in the past four years. However, there has been progress in smaller, less prominent cases where efforts have been made to commence the investigative process, although none have been completed to date.

Encouragingly, the number of cases picked up in the last year has increased three-fold in comparison with the previous three years (2011 to 2013), indicating the start of a more proactive approach to uncovering cases of foreign bribery. The report identifies the strengthening of the Anti-Corruption Task Team (ACTT) by the SA government as a progressive step towards complying with the Anti-Bribery Convention.

Corruption Watch's Executive Director, David Lewis, commented: "While the increase in the number of investigations of allegations of foreign bribery is encouraging, in order to meet our commitments under the Convention we will have to see these investigations resulting in prosecutions and sanctions." Corruption Watch is the local chapter of Transparency International. The report can be found at: <u>http://www.corruptionwatch.org.za/wp-</u> <u>content/uploads/2015/08/2015\_Exportin</u> <u>gCorruption\_OECDProgressReport\_EN</u> <u>.pdf</u>

# **Press contact(s): David Lewis (**+27 82 576 3748).

#### Lessons for Ghana

The situation seems to be the same in many other African countries. It is only under pressure that corrupt politicians set up Commissions and Committees of Enquiry to investigate allegations of corruption even if such allegations are credible. In situations where investigations are carried out, the public does not get to know the findings and recommendations of the investigative bodies. In many other situations. no action is taken on the recommendations and where money is to be recovered, nothing happens, where prosecution is recommended only few prosecutions take place. The question is: what do we do as concerned citizens? We must continue to exert pressure on the rulers through Press Releases, Feature articles in the newspapers, open letters to the President, SMS to Parliamentarians, demonstrations and other approaches. GII issued a Press Release recently on this, calling on government to avoid delays in investigations into allegations of corruption and actions against people indicted by investigative bodies.

#### Media advisory: OECD countries fail to keep promise to stop companies bribing abroad (18-08-15)

Some of the world's biggest exporting nations are still not living up to commitments to stop their companies from paying bribes to win business abroad, according to a new report from Transparency International that was released 20th August 2015.

Exporting Corruption Progress Report 2015: Assessing Enforcement of the

*OECD Convention on Combating Foreign Bribery*. The report quantifies how many of the 41 countries signed up to the Convention are actively enforcing it.

The Convention was designed to tackle the 'supply side' of cross-border corruption. Signatories are legally bound to investigate, prosecute and punish companies who bribe officials in foreign countries, a practice that undermines development, distorts markets and costs taxpayers.

The 11<sup>th</sup> edition of Transparency International's yearly progress report will show that a significant number of countries have failed to prosecute a single foreign bribery case during the last four years assessed by the report. National-level sections will discuss inadequacies in countries' legal frameworks and practice and recent developments, as well as make specific recommendations.

The report is available at www.transparency.org

https://www.transparency.org/news/p ressrelease/media\_advisory\_oecd\_co untries\_fail\_to\_keep\_promise\_to\_sto p\_companies\_bribin

#### Press contact(s): Chris Sanders

(+49 30 34 38 20 666); (press@transparency.org).

#### Lessons for Ghana

Fighting bribery and corruption is not the sole prerogative of the poor countries that suffer from the acts of corrupt companies and their local collaborators. In fact, these countries do not have the capacity to fight bribery and corruption and deal with sophisticated tax evasion and avoidance schemes by companies working in these countries. This calls for our friends in the West, especially our former colonial masters to enact and enforce laws in their countries to help curb bribery and corruption in the poor countries. Banks in these countries must also stop promoting tax evasion through the operation of their tax havens and hiding behind so-called

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secrecy bank laws. All this is corruption and must stop and be stopped by those who preach good governance and democracy.

#### GIAT Coalition calls for a stop to obstruction and interference of *Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission* (MACC) investigations (10-08-15)

# MACC investigations obstructed by arrests, transfers and confiscation of equipment and documents

The GIAT Coalition today, in light of recent actions of arrests of key personnel and confiscation of equipment & documents, calls for an immediate stop of activities that may obstruct the institutions' competency and capability to conduct their investigations.

In the latest raid on August 6th, MACC Deputy Chief Commissioner (Prevention) Datuk Hj. Mustafar Ali has revealed that documents and laptops have been confiscated by the police during raids in the offices and residences of their staff. These raids have possible legal ramifications in that they would constitute an offence under Section 48 of the MACC Act (2009).

GIAT, which includes Centre to Combat Corruption and Cronyism (C4), Friends of Kota Damansara, the Institute for Democracy and Economic Affairs (IDEAS), Transparency International Malaysia, and Sinar Project, calls for the immediate cessation of actions that obstruct the competency and capability of MACC to investigate possible corruption offences. It calls for not only the immediate return of confiscated equipment and documents to respective MACC divisions, but also to reverse the transfer of two senior officers out of MACC. There must also not be any future actions by authorities that can be seen as threats or intimidation to investigators.

These actions have already eroded public trust on the competency and capability for the MACC to be able to conduct its investigations in an independent manner without fear or favour. With the dismantling of the special task force investigating 1MDB, the inter-agency raids, the sudden removal of the Attorney General and the suspension of the Parliamentary Accounts Committee investigations on 1MDB, the loss of faith in the integrity and function of key public institutions will have dire ramifications on the stability and governance of this country.

The coalition, therefore, also calls for the immediate setup of a Royal Commission of Inquiry with terms of reference that would ensure that all key questions surrounding the current 1MDB issue are answered, including the reason(s) for the transfer of a few good gentlemen and officers from the MACC, whose work should be completed by 31 December 2015.

#### <https://www.transparency.org/new s/pressrelease/giat\_coalition\_calls\_f or\_a\_stop\_to\_obstruction\_and\_inte rference\_of\_macc\_inv> Lessons for Ghana

It is not strange that these acts should *be taking place in Malaysia because* the country is considered a star in the fight against corruption and it always comes up where examples of countries doing well in the fight against corruption come up. The country's anti-corruption commission (MACC) is considered a role model for anticorruption commissions globally. This is probably why it held the International Anti-|Corruption Conference this year. May be the holding of the IACC will push them to stop "harassing" the MACC if there is no basis for such "harassment". Every country, including Ghana, should resist the temptation to go in this direction. This is not the direction Ghana should be heading towards. It is not good for democracy and we shall resist it

# EULEX needs to support, not intimidate whistleblowers (12-08-15)

In light of the developments pertaining to Maria Bamieh, former prosecutor and whistleblower for alleged mismanagements in the EU Rule of Law Mission- EULEX, Transparency International Kosovo requests that EULEX publishes the procedures for reporting fraud and protection of whistleblowers. This is so that cases of corruption or misuse of power within this Institution, or other Institutions where EULEX operates, are made public in order to combat and prevent such abuses.

In November 2014, Maria Bamieh publically alleged that some of her colleagues at EULEX had engaged in unlawful actions and that her requests for internal investigations were ignored by the Mission. Currently, Bamieh has filed a case at the London Employment Tribunal, against EULEX for victimisation and being forced from her job due to whistleblowing activities. According to lawyers who represent Ms. Bamieh, EULEX has threatened criminal prosecution if she or her lawyer disclose any details of her claim to any non-parties pertaining to the court case and have requested complete secrecy throughout all stages of the proceedings.

EULEX is a mission that is funded by European taxpayers with the aim to fight corruption in Kosovo, thus there is a high public interest that the developments of this case are made public and easily accessible to the public and media.

The threat made to Bamieh by EULEX constitutes intimidation of anyone who could come forward to denounce corruption or mismanagement. EULEX should set the example of how a whistleblower should be treated to improve the current situation rather than send a message that anyone speaking up about corruption faces the threat of prosecution. EULEX's attempts to enforce secrecy could stop other witnesses to abuses from coming forward. EULEX should dedicate its energy to strengthening Kosovo's institutions and set a good example of action and not intimidation of whistleblowers in Kosovo.

#### <https://www.transparency.org/news/ pressrelease/eulex\_needs\_to\_support\_ not\_intimidate\_whistleblowers>

Edita Mustafa, Coordinator of Programs (edita.mustafa@gmail.com)

#### Lessons for Ghana

Here, Transparency International Kosovo is also calling for the publication of cases of corruption and misuse of power as a way of combating and preventing such abuses. This is not different from Ghana Integrity *Initiative's call for the publication of* reports of Commissions and Committees of Inquiry into allegations of corruption and other forms of malfeasance. The government has a duty to be transparent and accountable to the citizens who voted them into power. Furthermore, such publication is an effective way of curbing such acts in the future. The Government of Ghana must wake up from its deep slumber and do what is expected of it. Ghana deserves accountability from its leaders.

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# SPEAK UP AGAINST ABUSE OF POWER

Linus Atarah – Co-ordinator, Open Governance Project

Whith confusion, tears and desperation, the demolition of Old Fadama, popularly known as Sodom and Gomorrah, continues, purposively to be rid of illegal structures built on water ways, said to be the cause of damaging floods in the raining seasons. The ongoing exercise is being personally directed by the Accra City Mayor, Dr. Alfred Oko Vanderpuije.

But Hon. Mahama Ayariga, the Minister of Environment, Science and Innovation, had started his own version a little earlier. With the June 3 flood disaster that killed over 150 people in Accra still fresh on people's minds and the feelings still raw, Hon. Ayariga commandeered his demolition squad to take a tour of Accra just a few days after the disaster. With icy determination and resolve he vowed to bring down any structure which stood on a water way.

The most cited cause for the June 3 disaster was that some residents of Accra had put up buildings on water ways thereby blocking surface water flowing into the sea whenever it rained. So Hon, Ayariga wants to let the people of Ghana know that "something is being done" to placate the victims' families. And what better way than to operate under the full glare of the media. So inevitably, he deploys a broadcasting house to provide him full fire cover as he goes from place to place pointing out undesirable structures which have to be pulled down. From the radio reports, all he has to do is point a finger at a building and it comes

crumbling down under the might of a bulldozer. But while some buildings are ordered to be pulled down right away, others are spared. He only leaves behind instructions for their owners to come and see him later, which sounds rather fishy as he does not explain why. Onlookers and listeners are left to draw their own conclusions. This went on for a good part of an hour. Then he rested, just like God rested after creating the world in just six days.

But his overzealousness to catch public attention clouded his vision. While unauthorised structures come crumbling down, leaving behind mushroom clouds of dust, at no time does he bother to ask for the permits which allowed owners to put up those structures. Having conveniently glossed over that important issue, Mr. Ayariga avoided an opportunity to get to the bottom of a major cause of the perennial floods, namely, an investigation of how the permits to put up those structures were acquired. That would have unravelled the open secret of the underlying corruption driving the issue of building permits in this country. If unauthorised buildings are the cause of floods in Accra, as widely claimed, finding out the source of authority of the permits would provide a long-term solution to illegal construction.

But the minister had different ideas. Perhaps, wrongful issue of building permits has no connection with people building on water ways, thereby causing floods. His diagnosis of the cause of the seasonal floods was "lack of institutional alignment", he pronounced, in a radio panel discussion organised earlier in August by JOY FM.

Asked what preventive measures the government had put in place to avoid a similar tragedy in the future, Ayariga quickly went into obfuscation mode: to prevent disasters such as that of June 3, "there has to be institutional alignment", he announced, without bothering to explain what that meant. And so, according to him, the government is working on a programme designed to push those misaligned institutions to snap back into place. What a task!! And perhaps, that also means that, come the next raining season, if the

institutions remain still unaligned then Ghanaians should expect more loss of human lives.

It is ironic, isn't it?, that Mr. Ayariga was complaining of lack of institutional alignment just when he had overstepped his boundaries and shoved aside the man who should have been at the centre of events, and rather inserted himself. The disaster happened in Accra and, therefore, strictly speaking, is administratively under the Accra Metropolitan Assembly, headed by the Accra City Mayor, Alfred Oko Vanderpuije. Ayariga, on the other hand, is the central government Minister of Environment, Science and Innovation and, in spite of the fact that "Environment" is added to his portfolio, had no business meddling in local government issues.

But, is it even the work of a central government minister to be personally walking around and conducting demolitions? It seems Ayariga had elbowed aside the Accra Mayor and instead planted himself just to hog the limelight – an indispensable working gear for a good election campaign. That is the problem! Central government jealously clinging to areas of power which it claims have been decentralised to local administration and yet does not allow them space to carry out their mandates. Ayariga's diagnosis of the problem of floods has, therefore, less to do with institutional misalignment and more to do with institutional power struggle and dysfunction.

Since Ayariga was already aware of institutional misalignment, why did he choose to worsen it by stepping on to someone else's area of jurisdiction? It is common to have aspiring MPs stand in the middle of village market squares during election campaigns to promise all sorts of wonderful things to his constituents and gleefully ignoring the District Chief Executive whose remit, is precisely to provide those services.

Mr. Ayariga's demolition act also raises other questions. Did he follow due process when laying waste to people's properties? Are the owners of the structures entitled to compensation? Even though this

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country claims to be a democracy governed by the rule of law, it is amazing to discover how in several instances arbitrary rule still holds sway while following proper procedures is hurled across the other side of the street if it pleases a powerful official. A few instances of the most recent past illustrate the phenomena. Remember the former national security boss who razed down university gates? There is also the government itself which last year unilaterally and arbitrarily flung off parts of the terms of a collective bargaining agreement with university teachers, setting off an industrial action by the teachers. Institutions are not empty vessels, contrary to how Ayariga depicts them, to be commanded back into alignment like people in a military parade. Institutions are filled by human beings, guided by leadership and laws. If the leaders choose to ignore the laws because they obstruct the power ambitions of political leaders, then we would be on a slippery road hurtling down to a state of blame-game and chaos.

Ghanaians must condemn these acts of abuse of power if they expect them to stop. Our leaders must be told in the face that what they are doing is not right if they engage in such acts of abuse of power.



# <u>INTEGRITY SPOTLIGHT</u>

MARCUS AURELIUS | PHILOSOPHY | APRIL 28, 0121 - MARCH 21, 0180

"Waste no more time arguing about what a good man should be. Be one."



# **MONEY QUOTES**

ALBERT EINSTEIN | SCIENCE, PHILOSOPHY, PHYSICS | MARCH 14, 1879 - APRIL 18, 1955

"The hardest thing in the world to understand is the income tax."

# **CORRUPTION QUOTES**

JOHN STEINBECK | LITERATURE & FICTION | FEB. 27, 1902 - DEC. 20, 1968

"Power does not corrupt. Fear corrupts... perhaps the fear of a loss of power."



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# PARTICIPANTS COMMEND GII FOR INITIATING THE MSP REDD+ PROJECT



stakeholders to deliberate on policies and decisions on REDD+ activities and to build capacity of community members in holding public officials accountable with respect to effective implementation of policies, laws, byelaws, rules and regulations to reduce the impact of climate change.

It was also a means to use and promote "social accountability tools" (bodies like social auditing clubs who dedicate their times in monitoring REDD+ projects and forest management activities) in climate

koranza (B/A), July 19, GNA - The Ghana Integrity Initiative (GII) community Multi-Stakeholder Platform (MSP) project for effective implementation of Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) activities in Ghana, has been lauded at Nkoranza in the Brong-Ahafo Region.

The commendation was made by participants during a forum at a day's workshop for establishment of community MSP for successful execution of REDD+ activities in the country.

The programme, the sixth at the district level since 2014, was organized by the GII, a local chapter of Transparency International (TI), and funded by the European Union (EU) through the TI Secretariat in Berlin.

Sixty participants selected from six communities in the Nkoranza South Municipality and the Nkoranza North District in the Region attended.

They comprised traditional rulers, forestry officers, fire service personnel, farmers, charcoal burners, representatives of Federation of Persons with Disabilities, Assembly and Unit Committee members, opinion leaders and members of social clubs.

The workshop created the opportunity for various

change mitigation.

The participants expressed varied opinions to justify the need for all stakeholders to contribute for the project's success.

Mr. Michael Okai, Climate Change Finance Project Coordinator at GII in an interview with the Ghana News Agency (GNA) explained that "the project has an overall objective of improving anti-corruption policy and practice in REDD+ finance and governance in Africa".

Mr. Okai added "it directly seeks to contribute to a society where citizens are successfully engaging and demanding accountability in REDD+ forest finance and governance, and where REDD+ and forest governance policies and practices are more preventative against corruption and promote transparency and accountability at all levels".

He noted that the project would ensure the more efficient use of public resources, to ultimately contribute towards helping to reduce illegal deforestation and degradation, curb climate change impacts and enhance gender sensitive sustainable development.

#### GNA

Link:http://www.ghananewsagency.org/social/partic ipants-commend-gii-for-initiating-the-msp-reddproject--92082



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#### INTERNATIONAL NEWS

# **CORRUPTION WATCH YOUTH CAMPAIGN – "MY HANDS ARE CLEAN"**



*y Hands Are Clean* ( h a s h t a g #MyHandsAreClean or #MHAC), our theme for 2014/2015, calls on young people to commit to taking responsibility for their own actions, to stop the scourge of corruption in our society.

As part of our campaign, we urge you to publicly announce your positive stand against corruption. Join our team of corruption fighters who expose corruption where they see it, but are also willing to monitor their own behaviour before holding others to account. #MyHandsAreClean is a response to the growing awareness of how corruption affects young people.

"The pervasiveness of corruption in our country ... is robbing our youth of their rightful inheritance. Corruption is insidious and corrosive, and the damage that it wreaks today will be felt well into the future by those who had no part in it, or at least are relatively free from blame," writes Corruption Watch board chairperson, Archbishop Njongonkulu Ndungane, in the organisation's 2014 annual report. Young people are a major factor in getting the scales to tip in favour of anti-corruption. Our youth campaign aims to educate youth about corruption and encourage them to raise their voices and take action against this problem.

One of the ways that they can do this is to participate in our nomination challenge. We're encouraging our community of corruption fighters across all platforms to take selfies of their hands and nominate their friends to do the same!



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