



Ghana Integrity Initiative (GII)
Local Chapter of Transparency International

GII Alert

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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RISING ABOVE THE RHETORIC TO ACTION

Corruption has almost become a political sacrilege for almost all incumbent governments since the inception of constitutional rule in 1992. For political parties in opposition, an incessant campaign against corruption in government and the demonstration of corruption in the administration of the ruling government is about half surety or guarantee of an electoral win.

All candidates who have won political power in this fourth republic have promised an enthusiastic fight against corruption with slogans like “we no go sit down make them cheat us everyday”, “zero tolerance for corruption”, and “corruption will be a thing of the past” etc.

If there are any parts of the social contract between the elected and the citizens which have been broken with careless abandon, it is the promise to fight corruption. All three living Ex-Presidents and the late Professor Mills have had corruption tags on them. They have all either been investigated or have had some of their appointees investigated for corruption or acts that resulted in financial loss to the state.

Ghana got to a crossroad during the 2016 election as far as the fight against corruption was concern. The endorsement of any of the candidates was an indication of whether the country was going to rise above the rhetoric or act against corruption. The choice was for action rather than rhetoric. The actions that were promised included - increased investigation, prosecution and sanctioning of corrupt public officials irrespective of their political lineage, hence the creation of the Office of the Special Prosecutor (OSP). Many in Civil Society, including religious leaders have welcomed this initiative and congratulated the government, particularly on the appointment of Mr. Martin Alamisi Amidu Benz Kaiser.

However, the long silence and inaction of the government after the (OSP) law was passed has refreshed concerns by Ghanaians as to whether the President was slowly being absorbed into the age old practise of “more talking no action”. The President is being reminded of the promises he made prior on fighting corruption to his election and those that he continues to make even after assumption

of office. The country is looking for a new approach to fighting corruption.

Therefore Ghana Integrity Initiative (GII) encourages the government not to look far because the way forward on how to control corruption is fairly laid down by the National Anti-Corruption Action Plan (NACAP), the anti-corruption strategies guiding Ghana’s fight against corruption. The plan envisages 4 strategic objectives which civil society actors in the fight against corruption are expecting the government to work towards achieving. These strategic objectives are;

1. Build public capacity to condemn and fight corruption and make its practice a high-risk, low-gain activity;
2. Institutionalise efficiency, accountability and transparency in the public, private and not-for profit sectors;
3. Engage individuals, media and civil society organisations in the report and combat of corruption; and
4. Conduct effective investigations and prosecution of corrupt conduct.

The GHC1.2m budgetary allocation to the Commission of Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ) in 2017 and the establishment of the OSP are but only two interventions that are contributing to objectives one and two. Many more remain to be done, for instance, the capacity of the citizens needs to be built. The creation of a public corruption reporting platform seem to be a mirage than a reality. Government should support the Public Procurement Authority (PPA) to implement the e-procurement system as promised.

Lastly, but not the least, two of the sunshine laws that the current government inherited from the past government must be passed as soon as practicable. The bills are the Right to Information Bill (RTI), the Conduct of Public Officer’s Bill.

“Among a people generally corrupt, liberty cannot long exist.”

Edmund Burke

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EDITORIAL TEAM

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The Editorial Team 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.

GII Consortium Pushes for RTI Laws

to Parliament on the 23rd March, 2018, a partial fulfilment of the president's promised to have the bill passed into law.

The GII led Consortium, christened as the RTI Campaign Action Group congratulated the president and also contributed to the Committee on Constitutional, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs and the Communications Committee of Parliament by way of a memorandum on issues they consider pertinent to enhance the quality of the Bill and make it fit for purpose.

The Consortium is still monitoring the processes very closely as Parliament has resumed and the 2nd reading is eminent as the Joint Committees conclude their clause by clause review. Civil Society Actors engaging on RTI are cautiously optimistic that the Bill will be passed as the RTI has travelled this road several times under four different governments in this fourth Republic.

Background of Ghana RTI

The Right to Information Bill was first drafted in 1999 under the Ex-President, Jerry John Rawlings. Various advocacy groups emerged to press for the immediate passing of the bill into law in 2002. The draft bill was reviewed in 2003, 2005 and 2007.

The National Democratic Congress (NDC) in their 2008 and 2012 election manifestos promised to ensure the bill is passed. In 2010, the bill was presented to Parliament for consideration.

In 2011, the government signed unto the Open Government Partnership (OGP) Initiative with a commitment to pass the bill. In November 2013, the bill was formally laid before parliament.

The former Deputy Attorney General, Dominic Ayine in 2015, moved the bill for a second reading in Parliament. In October 2016, the bill was withdrawn and replaced with a new one which was immediately laid.

Following the dissolution of the Sixth Parliament of the Fourth Republic and the swearing-in of the new Parliament in January 2017, the bill is no longer in parliament.

It must be reintroduced in House by the new government before work commences on it again.

JOIN THE CAMPAIGN



Ghana Integrity Initiative (GII)
Local Chapter of Transparency International



GRTICAG
Ghana RTI Campaign Action Group



Bad Roads, bad hospitals, schools under trees; where did the money go?
#PassTheRTILawNow!



Do you want to know how much money we make from our oil proceeds? Let's ask for the RTI Law now!



Gargantuan Judgement debts, who facilitated them?, The RTI Law will help you find out!



Galamsey is destroying our water bodies, why is it still going on, who are those behind it?, Your answer is to pass the RTI Law!



Access to information = Access to development, access to data is key for the SDGs, Give us the RTI Law Now



We have a right to know what happens with our money!!!
#PassTheRTIBillNow

"we are active citizens, not spectators"

#PassTheRTIBillNow

"After many years of hesitation, we intend to bring a Bill (RTI) again to Parliament and work to get it passed into law before Parliament rises," - President Nana Akufo Addo

The statement above was made by the President of Ghana on the 61st Independence Anniversary of Ghana. This promise was but one of the plethora of promises made by Ghana's political leaders in almost two decades since the Right to Information Bill was drafted and first laid in Parliament.

Former President Mahama remarked in his last state of the Nation Address, jokingly though, that the RTI Bill deserves an award for being the bill that has lasted the longest in Parliament in the history of the Fourth Republic. Indeed the RTI has out lasted every president elected under the Fourth Republic, from ex-President Rawlings to ex-President Kufour to the Late President Mills through to ex-President Mahama.

Therefore, when the current President,

Nana Akufo Addo, and the then candidate of the New Patriotic Party (NPP) promised during the 2016 electioneering campaigns that he was going to ensure the speedy passage of the RTI bill, many in civil society expressed excitement. This was because Nana Addo had in the past demonstrated commitment to free speech by repealing the Criminal Libel and Seditious Laws less than a year in government.

But this excitement was short lived as the Nana Akufo Addo government failed to keep up its promise nearly 2 years into his presidency. The president's message on 6th March, 2018 was about laying the RTI Bill and getting it passed before Parliament rose for the 1st Meeting of the 7th Parliament of the 4th Republic.

However unrealistic the promise was, Ghana Integrity Initiative (GII) led a consortium of CSOs called the RTI Campaign Action Group and with the support of the RTI Coalition organised public events, social and traditional media engagements and a 10 day-countdown campaign. At last, the Bill was presented

Gender and Land Rights



GII organized a workshop to empower Women to fight for their Land Right. In attendance are Female Traditional Rulers

Arguably, land is very much in demand. We have a lot of competing interests coming from; politicians, investors, international financiers and citizens are scrambling for a piece of it. When a lot of people compete for a limited resource like land, it becomes necessary for people to cut corners to show their power and strength. That is why we say that there is a lot of power imbalance in the land sector. Access to is governed everywhere by institutions, formal and informal, customary and statutory. By their very nature, these institutions generate both winners and losers and are thus susceptible to corruption. Individuals negotiate with these systems in order to realize their right to access land, to have this right recognized or protected or to seek redress when this right is violated. Some are successful - others are not. These obstacles include instances of explicit and implicit corruption.

Gender equity rights are clearly written in the 1992 constitution, but property rights often do not give equal status to women - or when they do, in practice it is not respected. Women have de jure property rights, but their de facto control of rights is tenuous. Even if the legal system is put in place for women to own land, women face severe difficulties accessing and owning land. This relates to land inheritance and marital laws, as well as

land policy and customary laws (Gadiwaza 2011). Land titles are often only registered in the name of a male head of household (father, husband, brother or son).

Customary land law tends to be gender biased, and women are restricted as they have to access land only through male family members. In situations of divorce or widowhood, women risk losing access to the land which is crucial for their livelihoods (World Bank 2006). Women's access to land and ownership depends on a complex system of statutory laws, but more importantly on their enforcement. It also depends on the customary laws and practices. Women are prevented from participating in decision-making for many reasons: they lack awareness of their rights they have a low level of education, and they are limited by the perception of women's status in the household, community, and society (Chiweshe 2014).

When women access land through their male relatives and do not have their own entitlements, it makes them dependent on these male relatives. Exercising women's land rights would put women in a position to make choices in domestic, economic and political spheres. It is therefore vital to ensure genuine and effective participation by women (especially the poor and marginalized) all decisions

regarding land rights and ownership. Furthermore, Ghana should specifically monitor the gender-differentiated impacts of its laws, policies and programs, in particular those concerning rural development and food security, with a special emphasis on women's land rights.

One of the enduring and challenging factors to land, dwells on the customary influence on land, in Ghana, 78% of land is owned by customary institutions and even the 2% that adds up to 80% is still owned by traditional or customary institutions whereas 20% is owned by government. Considering this allocation, it is glaring how other parties to the land may directly or indirectly be sidelined due to their unheard voice in these institutions.

Also, the issue of management, thus making of rules, regulations and policies binding on lands seems to be a huge stumbling block to a fair acquisition and distribution of lands. That is, because the making of regulations and granting of permits is in the mandate of government. There is definitely bound to be conflict since one institution owns the lands and the other institution is giving directives to the owners. When this happens, it becomes an unfair grounds to play category of people will benefit from this power imbalances or competing interest as others will lose.

The inadequate access to information on land processes has deprived citizens of their right to know their land status. Access to this information will enlighten citizens on their rights and how to utilize them. Also owing to the complexity of laws scattered in various forms, there are difficulties in accessing a complete and concrete information on lands and as such one has to consult different legal documents since information needed is not captured in a particular document. Again, in Ghana the multiples of laws and the gaps creates more concern than laws seek to cure.

On the issue of citizen's participation and monitoring of land transactions, it has been realized that citizens are neither nor bothered about how to get citizens

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Gender and Land Rights

especially women involved in land transactions or decisions around land and on land transaction. Free Prior Informed Consent is a strategy Ghana has adopted appropriate therefore to inform the citizens by giving prior notice to affected community, prior notice on their rights, roles and investments and also seeking their consents on the land and investment issues. Thus, if the community consents to investments on their lands, it freely gives the green light to investors to operate but this is often not



The Executive Director of GII in a pose with the Queen Mothers who participated in the Land rights workshop

seen, nor done, nor even heard of.

Touching on the issue where several areas did not have access to the services of a lawyers and therefore, matters on land disputes were not adequately attended to. Evidence abound that, most

of the Land cases that arises on daily basis can be resolved with the support of legal person.

Local / Traditional authorities have been supporting good land governance, albeit, their weak capacity at the local level.

REPORT ON TRANSPARENCY FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM



GII's Anita Ayuah participated in the International integrity school in Lithuania

As part its efforts to fight corruption, Transparency International organises summer School on Integrity, in Lithuania. The integrity school is an intensive ten-day programme yearly for young professionals especially from TI Chapters across the world to expand their anti-corruption knowledge and advocacy skills towards strengthening the capacity of their respective national chapters in bringing the anti-corruption message across.

This year's (2018) event took place in Lithuania, Vilnius from July 2-11, 2018 and brought together over 50

professionals from countries worldwide.

Participants were young professional from TI- Chapters, students, lawyers, journalist amongst others. The representative from Ghana Integrity Initiative was in the person of Ms. Anita Ayuah, Assistant Programmes Officer with GII.

The Fellowship is in three parts: an intensive seven days training at Transparency International School on Integrity, three days of field visits to anti-corruption and monitoring institutions in Lithuania as well as capacity-building sessions led by senior staff of TI

Lithuania.

The program provided a great networking and mentorship opportunities for participants but ultimately it built the capacity of participants to take on challenging roles and be innovative in pursuing the anti-corruption agenda.

At the end of the event participants were presented with certificates and had the opportunity of evaluating the overall organization of the program for successful execution of the program in the future.

GII Engages Rural Citizens on their Rights and Role in Fighting Corruption in Ghana



Community members of Ntumda of the Biakoye District participating in GII ALAC

The Ghana Integrity Initiative (GII) established the Advocacy and Legal Advice Center (ALAC) in 2009 to provide citizens with a mechanism to report and pursue corruption related grievances occurring in various sectors of society. Since its establishment, ALAC has offered support to many victims and witnesses of corruption. In a bid to expand the work and reach of ALAC, GII organizes community durbars in selected districts across the country every year. These durbars popularly referred to as “Mobile ALACs: bringing rights education to citizens” offer GII an opportunity to carry its services to citizens at the local level and a strategy to empower citizens to take action against corruption. The durbars also make corruption reporting more convenient for citizens and also increase corruption reporting.

In September 2017, GII organized two of such mobile ALACs in Ntumda in the Biakoye District and Chamba Krom in the Krachi East District of the Volta Region. The mobile ALACs offered GII an opportunity to engage directly with citizens at the community level on how they can contribute to fighting corruption in Ghana.

GII reached 287 people (144 males and 143 females) directly with anti-corruption messages in the last quarter of 2017 alone. The mobile ALACs provided a platform for community members to seek clarity and acquire knowledge on specific issues such as the Ghana Police bailing process, the manifestations of corruption, the Whistle

Blower Act, 2006 (Act 720) and the role of citizens in fighting corruption in Ghana per the provisions under the National Anti-Corruption Action Plan (NACAP).

In both districts, citizens had the opportunity to ask questions and seek clarification on pertinent issues bordering on corruption, during the open forum sessions. Key questions / issues that came up for discussion included issues of whether there are any compensation / rewards under the Whistleblower's Act; whether an accused is expected to pay any money before bail is granted; the differences between corruption and bribery; the state anti-corruption institutions that have a mandate to deal with corruption complaints; the kinds of offences that warrant the seizure of a driver's license; as well as the complaint reporting procedure for CHRAJ.

Generally, the mobile ALACs increased

citizens' awareness on the impact of corruption in their daily lives, information on how to access the ALAC and the importance of corruption reporting. It also enhanced the existing collaboration between GII and district NCCE / CHRAJ offices for the fight against corruption work in the districts. In all the districts, the Chiefs commended GII for selecting their districts as beneficiaries. They opined that anti-corruption education should start with school children at the primary level to ensure that a high sense of integrity is instilled in them. In both districts GII collaborated with the District Directors for the National Commission for Civic Education (NCCE) and the Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ) to execute the mobile ALACs. The Directors were also introduced to community members as GII focal persons in the district. Feedback from the district office of the National Commission for Civic Education (NCCE) is that the Chiefs of Ntumda in the Biakoye District have already approached the District Director to discuss the possibility of engaging the services of GII for such activities in other communities within the district as well as holding separate sessions for Chiefs on land and corruption, since according to them, land disputes are dire in the district.

Feedback from the field shows that the mobile ALACs are becoming more relevant each day. However, limited funds continue to remain a challenge to our quest to expand our mobile ALACs to many more communities. Notwithstanding, GII intends



A cross section of Biakoye District citizens who participated in the ALAC public forum

GII CoBMET: A Framework to Promote Participation and Inclusion in Basic Education Development



Members of the CoBMET in a meeting to engage with school management in the Upper East Region

Most public basic schools in Ghana were started through community initiatives which eventually got absorbed into the public system and management and control of these schools shifted to the Ghana Education Service. When the management and control of these community basic schools is transferred to the central government, the communities were eventually relegated to the background with very minimal involvement. As part of government's efforts to promote participation and inclusion, structures such as School Management Committees (SMCs)/Parents Teachers Associations (PTAs), District Education Oversight Committee (DEOC), District Education Planning Teams (DEPT), Circuits, Zones,

Area Councils, Units and Cluster Centres among others were established and strengthened. Also, the 1987 Education Reform made provision towards community ownership of basic schools within a locality. It recognized provision of basic education as a joint venture between government and the communities where government provides curriculum materials, equipment, teachers, supervision and management. School Management Committees/Parent Teacher Association on their part donate or provide educational infrastructure, contribute to the teaching and learning process as resource persons and ensure access to education through registration of births, determination of the school-age population, moral persuasion or compulsion to get children enrolled, and

impose fines on defaulters (Addae-Boahene (2007)).

Community participation in school management has great potential for removing mistrust and distance between people and schools by nurturing transparency of information and a culture of mutual respect and by jointly pursuing improvement of school by sharing vision, process, and results. Individual and organizational behavioural changes are critical to increasing the level of participation. In countries where the administrative structures are weak, the bottom-up approach to expanding educational opportunity and quality learning may be the only option (Nishimura (2017)).

It is for these reasons that the Ghana Integrity Initiative (GII), under the 'Promoting Transparency and Accountability in Basic School Management' programme under its MISEREOR funded project titled "Further Support for GII's Anti-Corruption and Good Governance Programmes in Ghana", established Community Based Monitoring and Evaluation Teams (CoBMETs) with the aim of promoting participation of key stakeholders in the management of basic schools, contributing to the improvement of education performance and to improve the management of basic education finances in particular and school management in general aimed at achieving value-for-money. Currently, there are seven (7) CoBMETs in seven (7) project districts in Ghana.

The establishment of the CoBMETs has yielded positive results in these districts and has encouraged stakeholders to actively participate in the education of their children. In 2014 and as part of their mandate, the Asante Akyem CoBMET with support from parents and teachers, installed burglar proof and mosquito nets and built a kitchen for the Juaso Presby Primary and the Kindergarten department of the Dwadem D/A Primary respectively while in Gomoa East, the PTA of the Obuasi D/A JHS agreed with the parents to pay a one Ghana cedi (GHC1.00) levy to help construct a urinal to solve the sanitation problems in the school. Also, through the initiative of CoBMET in Gomoa East, the school administration for the Gomoa Dahom D/A Kindergarten

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1. Addae-Boahene A. 2007. Ghana: Aid Effectiveness and the Education Sector: Implications for Civil Society. An Alliance 2015 Report
2. Nishimura, M.(2017) "Education, Change, and Development, Education and Society, Educational Administration and Leadership, Online Publication
3. The CoBMETs are located in the Bolgatanga, Berekum, Asante Akyem South, South Tongu, Assin South, Gomoa East and Ga West districts.

Ghana Integrity Initiative (GII) Events In Pictures



Students' Parliament in UCC at the Intra-Tertiary debate on corruption



Beneficial Ownership training in the Western Region



Legon Students' Parliament at the anti-corruption week



RTI campaign in picture



The KNUST Student's Parliament debate on corruption at the 2017 anti-corruption week



Promoting women right to land



GII CoBMET: A Framework to Promote Participation and Inclusion in Basic Education Development



CoBMET occasionally witness teaching and leaning sections

and Primary School now render account to the parents on any monies collected with receipts of the process properly filed for future reference. Again in 2016, the Asante Akyem South CoBMET supported the administration of the Menamenaso D/A Primary, Abakabon D/A Primary and Danyameso D/A Primary to establish SMC/PTAs in their schools. The team also encouraged the community members to send their wards to school to help in the development of the community and the country

In 2017, the CoBMETs organized School Performance Appraisal Meetings (SPAM) among others geared towards improving the basic education system. The Berekum CoBMET organized the activity in eight selected schools to enhance students' performance in the district. These meetings served as learning and sharing platforms for schools with a high percentage of performance as well as poor performing schools in the district in the Basic Education Certificate Examination (BECE) to support stakeholders to identify the challenges confronting the school performance and outline strategies to help achieve better results.

For the Asante Akyem South CoBMET, the SPAMs focused on educating stakeholders on their respective roles in the management of the schools and to propose viable solutions to the abysmal performance of children in some of the selected schools in the district. The team also took the opportunity to discuss the problem of low enrolment in Ahyiresu D/A Primary. CoBMET members encouraged parents to ensure that their wards are

enrolled in schools. In the Gyankobaa and Kwabeng D/A Primary schools the CoBMET engaged with the stakeholders to encourage them to support the school in the construction of an on-going school building project. The activities of the team led to an increase in the enrolment drive in Ahyiresu from 155 in June 2017 to 165 in September 2017 while in Kyempo, two of the students who sat for the BECE gained admission to Prempeh College in Kumasi.

The SPAM held by the South Tongu CoBMET brought together all stakeholders in education to re-examine their roles towards ensuring transparency and accountability in the schools. It also served as a platform for the pupils, teachers, parents and other stakeholders to discuss challenges and propose solutions to issues such as poor performance and lateness of pupils and teachers to school. The CoBMET spoke against sexual relationships among students and between teachers and students.

Additionally, the team facilitated a BECE clinic on the four core subjects, namely; English, Mathematics, Integrated Science and Social Studies for the Yorkutikpo D/A school with the aim of helping the students prepare adequately for the BECE in order to avoid poor performance and any examination malpractices.

In all, the meetings were successful as the elders and parents in the community committed to ensure quality education and also improve performance in their schools.



A training section for members of the CoBMET in the Eastern Region

Empowering Youth to Fight Corruption



GII support Youth Parliament during the 2017 Anti-Corruption week

“If it is clear youth will be encouraged and listened to, and preparations are well thought out, you are set up for success... Having youth on boards and commissions has been a rewarding experience for everyone involved. Youth feel their voice is valued and that they have an impact on city decisions. Adult members benefit from the fresh perspective, optimism, and enthusiasm youth bring to the table.”

— Matt McCarte

One of the surest ways to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is through a concerted all-encompassing approach to win the fight against corruption? Critical to this is the inclusion of an active youth, engaging and participating in governance processes that identifies strategies to effectively fight corruption and reduce poverty. A number of universities in Ghana have Campus Parliaments and/or Debating Clubs. Modelled on the actual working of the Ghanaian Parliament, they provide a unique platform for the future leaders of Ghana to debate key campus or national issues.

As part of the National Anti-corruption and Transparency Week, Ghana Integrity Initiative (GII) with funding support from

the US Embassy in collaboration with Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) Parliament House and University of Cape Coast (UCC) Parliamentary Council organised “Intra-Tertiary Debates” at KNUST and UCC on December 1 & 9, 2017 respectively. The theme was “Empowering the youth in the fight against corruption”. These debates were intended to contribute to the overall goals and objectives of the week by bringing the youth to the fore front of national debate and to stimulate discussions on the negative effects of corruption under the theme. Over 300 students from the two universities were engaged throughout the debates on relevant anti-corruption topics.

Topics for debates were as follows:

- KNUST - “Can the youth be involved in the fight against corruption given the current socio-political climate?”
- UCC - “Which of these will you prioritize and why: a Special Prosecutor or Right to Information Law?”

During the debate in KNUST, the minority argued that Political parties have successfully infiltrated the strong youth front and this has hindered the youth's involvement in the fight against corruption. This is because political

youth wings assess issues with political lens making its very difficult for them to objectively criticize corrupt activities of their own party.

The Majority Caucus on the other hand argued that the youth have been availed with lots of opportunities to demonstrate to the older generation their anti-corruption potentials. For example Youth Employment Agency, National Youth Authority and National Service Secretariat are avenues for the youth to demonstrate integrity in the world of work. Again they argued that the works of Manasseh Azuri Awuni (investigative journalist) served as a catalyst to the youth that as individuals one can make a difference in the fight against corruption.

At the end of the debate, the majority caucus won the debate. Though the minority bench put up a good fight.

In UCC, the Majority bench held the view that the right to Information Bill when passed would only serve the purpose of naming and shaming and not really solve the problem of corruption in the country. The office of the Special Prosecutor, on the other hand would help curb the canker. They also made a point that the special prosecutor would have power to seize assets of people deemed corrupt by law. Making reference to the Alfred Agbesi Woyome (Ghana) verses the Republic of Ghana.

The Minority argued that the office of the Special Prosecutor was just going to be another office like that of the Attorney General's office which will only add to the already many resource starved government offices. Thus the Right to Information Bill will best solve the problem of corruption in Ghana, as the citizens when empowered with information could take up issues and proceed to court for adjudication.

At the end of the debate in UCC, the majority bench took the day. Though the minority bench came up with some good points and sharp rebuttals.

GII took the opportunity after the debates, to educate the students on the effects of corruption, anti-corruption and transparency week 2017, NACAP and available channels of reporting corruption and corruption. related cases including. These channels includes ALAC, IPaidABribe platform, CHRAJ, etc.

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Empowering Youth to Fight Corruption

It is believed that debates and discussions held at the tertiary level has increased public awareness of corruption and also informed the public of world anti-corruption day celebration, its aims and objectives.

In a nutshell, the intra-debate initiative was quite an illuminating discussion drawing from the contributions of the youth towards the future. Again, it is hoped that several initiatives which will embrace the involvement and engagement of the youth will be established to create opportunities for the youth to form a part of the decision making body of the state.



GII Programmes Team participating in the Inter Tertiary Debates

10 WAYS TO FIGHT CORRUPTION

1. Corruption is not only about bribes:

People especially the poor get hurt when resources are wasted. That's why it is so important to understand the different kinds of corruption to develop smart responses.

2. Power of the people: Create pathways that give citizens relevant tools to engage and participate in their governments – identify priorities, problems and find solutions.

3. Cut the red tape: Bring together formal and informal processes (this means working with the government as well as non-governmental groups) to change behavior and monitor progress.

4. It's not 1999: Use the power of technology to build dynamic and continuous exchanges between key stakeholders: government, citizens, business, civil society groups, media, academia etc.

5. Deliver the goods: Invest in institutions and policy – sustainable improvement in how a government delivers services is only possible if the people in these institutions endorse sensible rules and practices that allow for change while making the best use of tested traditions and legacies – imported models often do not work.

6. Get incentives right: Align anti-corruption measures with market,

behavioral, and social forces. Adopting integrity standards is a smart business decision, especially for companies interested in doing business with the World Bank Group and other development partners.

7. Sanctions matter: Punishing corruption is a vital component of any effective anti-corruption effort.

8. Act globally and locally: Keep citizens engaged on corruption at local, national, international and global levels – in line with the scale and scope of corruption. Make use of the architecture that has been developed and the platforms that exist for engagement.

9. Build capacity for those who need it most: Countries that suffer from chronic fragility, conflict and violence– are often the ones that have the fewest internal resources to combat corruption. Identify ways to leverage international resources to support and sustain good governance.

10. Learn by doing: Any good strategy must be continually monitored and evaluated to make sure it can be easily adapted as situations on the ground change.

Source: World Bank Institute

ADISS NEWS STORY: Engagements on PFM Regulations



GII Consultium holding discussions on the PFM Regulation

The Ghana Integrity Initiative (GII) Consortium comprising GII, Ghana Anti-Corruption Coalition (GACC), and SEND Ghana through the Accountable and Democratic Institutions and Systems Strengthening (ADISS) seeks to fight corruption and strengthen citizen's demand for accountability. ADISS's purpose is to renew and build upon anti-corruption efforts and increase the capacities of anti-corruption Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) to motivate citizens to apply pressure on policy makers and institutions with the aim of reducing corruption in Ghana. Overall, ADISS pursues two key objectives: promote a robust and effective legal framework that prevents and sanctions corruption and improve civil society reporting, tracking and advocacy for stronger anti-corruption efforts.

A key outcome of ADISS is MDAs' and MMDAs' active implementation and enforcement of the audit recommendations of the Auditor General's and Public Accounts Committee Reports. Notably, Ghana's new Public Financial Management Law (Act 921) has made some changes to the process of audit recommendation implementation specifically with regard to the committees overseeing implementation. Some of the proposed changes require Regulations on the Law

to operationalize the process of audit recommendation implementation. ADISS partnered with GIZ in 2017 to alert the Ministry of Finance to this and also submitted proposals for consideration in the formulation of Regulations on the Law (Act 921).

Following this and as part of its advocacy strategy, ADISS is continuing to advocate for the speedy formulation of the Regulations and ratification by Parliament. To this end, the Consortium in partnership with GIZ, engaged the Ministry of Finance in Accra to promote the speedy buting of the PMF regulation The meeting brought together officials of the MoF, GIZ and the GII Consortium to find out the status of the regulations and open discussions on understanding the challenges facing the Ministry and jointly

discover avenues to move the process forward.

Some of the issues that emerged during the meeting included the delay in drafting of the regulation. According to the representatives of the Ministry, broad sensitization has taken place with various PFM institutions and other stakeholders and feedback from these will inform the content of the regulations. However, the MoF has issued an interim guideline for the implementation of especially Audit Committees after broad consultations to allow for the setting up and implementation of Audit Committees. According to Mr. Ransford Agyei, head of the Internal Audit Agency, since the introduction of the Guidelines, almost 90 percent of MDA's and MMDA's have inaugurated their respective Audit Committees so far.

The ministry explained that though the PFM Regulations are yet to be drafted, a working group will soon be set up to begin work on it – the composition of which will be similar to the working group that drafted the PFM Law. They assured that the process of drafting the regulation will be very consultative to include recommendations from all sectors including civil society. According to them, the ministry is working to have the Regulations in parliament by June 2018.

The Consortium pressed home the urgency of passing the regulations and encouraged them to work closely with civil society organisations and other partners especially the advocacy platforms that they have, to achieve this as soon as possible. The MoF expressed appreciation to the GII Consortium and its partners for creating such a platform and promised to take advantage of it going forward.



Hon. Ken Ofori-Attah
Minister of Finance



Mr. Ransford Agyei
Internal Audit Agency

INTEGRITY SPOTLIGHT

"Real integrity is doing the right thing, knowing that nobody's going to know whether you did it or not."

Oprah Winfrey



CORRUPTION QUOTES

"Among a people generally corrupt, liberty cannot long exist."

Edmund Burke



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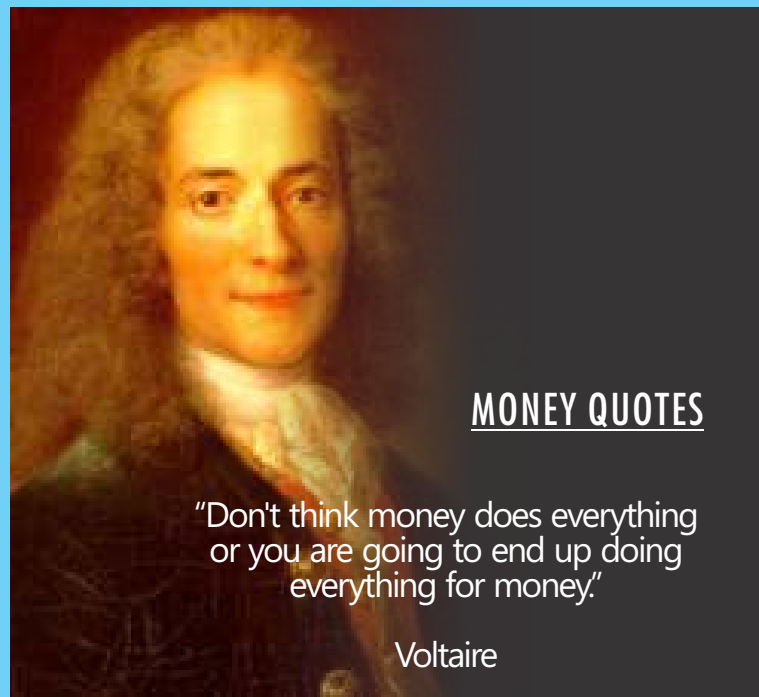
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MONEY QUOTES

"Don't think money does everything or you are going to end up doing everything for money."

Voltaire



Giant leap forward for ending the UK's role as a safe haven for dirty money

Transparency International welcomes Government decision to back transparency in Overseas Territories

1st May 2018, London – Transparency International welcomes the Government accepting a cross-party amendment to the Sanctions and Anti-Money Laundering Bill for Britain's Overseas Territories to bring in public registers that will reveal the individuals behind companies formed in these jurisdictions.

The amendment means that the UK must, no later than 31st December 2020, prepare a draft Order in Council requiring the Government of any British Overseas Territories that has not introduced such a register to do so.

Secrecy in these territories has allowed corrupt individuals from around the world to hide the hundreds of billions of pounds in wealth they have stolen from their populations and launder it through

global financial centres like the UK. Last week, working with Transparency International, BBC Panorama published details of a Ukrainian crime gang that had purchased 8 luxury properties in London using British Virgin Islands (BVI) companies. Transparency International has found at least £4.4 billion worth of property in the UK bought with suspicious wealth – half of this using companies based in just the BVI alone.

Duncan Hames, Director of Policy at Transparency International UK, said:

“This is very welcome news that the UK will finally be able to open up the financial centres in the British Overseas Territories. These jurisdictions have long been the Achilles Heel of our defences against dirty money. Agreement on this represents a hugely significant moment

in the fight against corruption, not just in the UK but around the world.”

“This afternoon, corrupt individuals everywhere will be deeply concerned that they are about to lose the secrecy afforded by the British Overseas Territories that has until now given them an easy route to launder their ill-gotten gains.”

“We hope that those territories will now use the opportunity they have over the next 18 months to implement these registers and shut the door to dirty money.”

Transparency International pays tribute to the hard work of all campaigners in both civil society and Parliament who have worked to make this a reality.

“We can only achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development if every nation has strong, transparent and inclusive institutions, based on the rule of law and supported by the public.” — **UN Secretary-General, António Guterres**

2017 Theme: United against corruption for development, peace and security

Every year \$1 trillion is paid in bribes while an estimated \$2.6 trillion are stolen annually through corruption – a sum equivalent to more than 5 per cent of the global GDP. In developing countries, according to the United Nations Development Programme, funds lost to corruption are estimated at 10 times the amount of official development assistance.

Corruption is a serious crime that can undermine social and economic development in all societies. No country, region or community is immune. This year UNODC and UNDP

have developed a joint [global campaign, focusing on how corruption affects education, health, justice, democracy, prosperity and development](#)

UNITED
AGAINST
CORRUPTION



CORRUPTION, WEALTH & POLITICAL POWER



Written by [Louise Russell-Prywata](#) on Friday, 13 April 2018

The recent headline that the [richest 1% are on target to own two thirds of all wealth by 2030](#) has caused quite a stir. It's clear that the public are concerned about the consequences, and many believe it will lead to increased corruption.

The news that the wealth of the richest is growing faster than the wealth of those with more modest resources comes as no surprise to anyone with a standard savings account. What is interesting, however, is the public's view of the extent to which wealth is linked with political power.

28% of the UK public surveyed for the All Party Parliamentary Group on Inclusive Growth think that today's "super rich" already have the most power in society; specifically, that the wealthiest have greater ability to "direct or influence the behaviour of others or the course of events" than any other actors, including the government. This alone is some indictment of our democracy.

When asked about the future, things look even gloomier: 34% think that by 2030 the super rich will have the most power in society. This is more than the 28% of people who think the government will still have the most power. Clearly, public perceptions suggest we are well en route

to plutocracy, and here is where corruption comes into play.

When asked what would worry them if global inequality were to rise, the leading cause for concern is "the super rich enjoying unfair business influence on government policies", chosen by 43% of people. This, one of nine options in the survey (original data [here](#)), is narrowly followed by "rising levels of corruption", chosen by 41%.

From Transparency International UK's perspective, these two issues are closely related. We define corruption as the abuse of entrusted power for private gain, and lobbying – the type of unfair influence implied by the first survey option – is a significant focus for our work. Indeed there is nothing to suggest that this is confined to business influence; this seems unnecessarily restrictive, as the disproportionate influence of any special interest group can be bad news for democracy.

Results such as this survey make us more determined to continue our work to reduce undue influence. We have a good understanding of what needs to happen, for example through our research into lobbying risks in [UK politics](#), and our colleagues' assessment of lobbying at [European level](#).

There are two sides to the lobbying issue – those being lobbied and those doing the lobbying – and both sides require change in order to effectively tackle undue influence. This is why we are currently [assessing the global political engagement](#) of some of the largest companies operating in the UK, and will also soon launch a new searchable database of government Ministers' meetings.

Both these approaches have proven successful at bringing about change, with nearly one-fifth of companies in our [pilot political engagement project](#) taking action to improve. Our research into lobbying risks identified a significant loophole permitting donations to political parties in Northern Ireland to be made without transparency, which the government has now addressed (in part; there is still [more to do](#)).

Despite all this, lobbying and undue influence of special – generally wealthy – interests remains one of the most challenging areas for NGOs like Transparency International to work on. Whilst we have significantly shifted the dial both domestically and internationally on corruption issues such as beneficial ownership transparency and unexplained wealth, substantive changes to curb undue influence remain both hard to gain political traction for, and challenging to raise funds to research and campaign for.

Yet we are optimistic and remain determined. The perception* that global inequality is rising is reinforcing public concern about undue influence of money over politics. In the UK there have been words of positive intent from both sides of the political house, and there is increasing attention from companies on the need for greater transparency. Transparency International UK, in coordination with journalists, activists, and others committed to exposing and challenging undue influence – will continue to push for these intentions to translate into change.

* I say perception, as data suggests global income inequality has actually [decreased since 2000](#), although within economies such as the UK, the gap between the richest and poorest has indeed increased. There is also a significant likelihood that [top incomes are underestimated](#) due to financial secrecy.

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