



Ghana Integrity Initiative
(Local Chapter of Transparency International)

GII Alert

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Engaging women and youth in the fight against corruption

Ghana Integrity Initiative hosted its parent organisation Transparency International Secretariat (TI-S), Berlin, and eight other TI chapters in Africa together with selected civil society groups in Ghana for a workshop aimed at better engaging women and youth in the fight against corruption. The gathering in Accra, included representatives of TI chapters from Ethiopia, Liberia, Niger, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

During the three-day regional workshop, participants agreed that engaging women and youth effectively in the fight against corruption was an effective measure in ensuring that the tenets of transparency and accountability are well entrenched in our society.

However, participants did not rule out the enormous challenges in the bid to engage these groups of people, especially women who are often impeded in several ways. Top amongst the challenges underscored included, women care taking activities which make it less attractive for them to engage in anything that is likely to take much of their time and traditional beliefs that women should always lay back on issues and avoid being upfront. Issues of lack of education and poverty, among others, were also identified as challenges.

Participants agreed that to forestall these challenges, stakeholders must ensure a safer space for women to speak out

against corruption; anti-corruption activists also need to understand how women and youth are affected by corruption and hear from them about the optimal ways to fight it. They also agreed that anti-corruption civic education needs to target



Group picture of participants at the Workshop

women through means that readily reach women – existing women's community organisations are one good channel. With regards to youth engagement, social media was identified as one good tool for meaningful engagement.

Participants concluded that certain anti-corruption projects must be more women/youth

specific in their approach. Women and youth need to be engaged as opinion makers, role models, ambassadors and champions in such projects. Strategic pillars for achieving this feat include targeting women/youth at different levels, creating awareness on the need to engage them, raising funds to support their activities, doing research, identifying and building partnerships and networks and involving both women and youth in decision-making.

During the workshop, a market place was mounted in one of the sessions where participants showcased the work they have been doing in engaging women and youth in the fight against corruption. Most participants indicated that they had learnt a lot from other chapters or CSOs and were better informed in strategising more effectively for more activism in the fight against corruption.

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Editorial Team

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

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

Editorial

Ghana's natural resources must benefit Ghanaians

Cape Town, South Africa, hosted the world's biggest mining investment conference, "Investing in African Mining Indaba" a conference and exhibition on mining, last February. The participants all came to this conference with their individual interests in mind. The exhibitors were mining companies trying to present their potential to an investment audience. The African governments were looking to attract global miners to exploit their mineral potential. There were also manufacturers and service companies seeking to sell their wares and expertise to the industry in Africa.

As has always been the singsong, the participants reminded Africans of the billions of dollars that have been invested in the industry and the lot more waiting to be invested. The participants were not interested in the cost of mining in terms of ill-health, displacements, denigration and hopelessness of poor mining communities. Nor were they honest enough to express gratitude to Africans for allowing them to exploit huge amounts of these exhaustible resources out of the continent.

This is why civil society organizations (CSOs) also hosted its Alternative Mining Indaba (AMI) at the same time, in the same city, not too far from the plush Cape Town International Conference Centre where the main conference took place. Yours truly, Executive Director of GII, was part of the group. The aim was to present case studies of victims of mining activities and evidence of ecological damage as a side event to the annual Mining Indaba. The AMI has been developed by civil society to run simultaneously with the Mining Indaba to articulate the suffering of ordinary people while mining companies and governments are meeting to form partnerships and design strategies to consolidate their profits at the expense of the ordinary people.

On the last day of the CSO AMI, the CSO groups matched to the CTICC to present a declaration. The main import of the declaration was that governments and the mining sector were placing profits ahead of people, the environment and sustainability. The declaration also called for a unified and coordinated social movement to struggle for mining justice in Africa.

The AMI raises the issues that the main Mining Indaba deliberately refuses to raise - the issue about poverty of communities adjacent to mining activities, the lack of adequate job creation, the environmental impact of mining activities on these communities as well as sustainability after mining operations end. The AMI emphasized the need for strategies to promote justice and peace a new framework which puts people, environment and communities at the centre of development and not profits. These issues do not differ much from those raised by CSOs in Ghana. This could not have been better emphasized by Ghanaian CSOs. Ghana Integrity Initiative fully backs these issues.

The Declaration of the AMI should be a moral booster to Ghanaian CSOs which have been fighting over the years for the maximum benefits of the country's rich mineral resources. However, the mining communities and these CSOs often find themselves facing resistance from our elected governments and even violence from security agencies and supported by traditional rulers. It is also common to find tax officials conniving with mining companies to evade and/or avoid taxes in return for personal benefits.

It is time for Ghanaians, in general, and communities affected by mining, in particular to fight for social and economic justice in the exploitation of our mineral and other natural resources. They must demand continuous and open negotiations with the host communities by mining companies and governments on the progress, impacts and declared resources extracted from their land.

In spite of the presence of the mining companies in the mining communities, there are still high rates of unemployment. This means that the Ghanaian government must work with the communities to pursue in the communities alternative development paths beyond mining.

Beyond this, the entire citizenry must demand that our government shows leadership and be more transparent and accountable with regards to protecting the mineral resources and human rights of the citizens. Mining companies must live up to their tax responsibilities and governments must ensure that mining revenues are redistributed equitably. Ghana must fully exercise its sovereign rights to impose its desired tax regimes to enable it provide social services to its people and not be dictated to, just as stabilization agreements must be re-negotiated so that national interests are not sacrificed on the altar of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI).

Finally, Ghanaians must demand, and government must enact and enforce, greater transparency and accountability laws, policies and systems in order to tackle secrecy, structures and investments that facilitate tax avoidance and evasion. This will ensure that the government strengthens its capacity to collect the rightful share of revenue from mining companies for the benefit of the country and its people.

Women undergo training in Participatory Videoing

TTrue to the assertion that the time is ripe for women to be active players in governance issues and become actors in the fight against corruption, thirty women were trained on how to use the video camera to capture issues of concern for deliberations with those in positions of trust or duty bearers. The women were trained during a workshop, “People Engagement Programme (PEP),” organized by Ghana Integrity Initiative (GII) with support from Transparency International from March 18 – 22, 2013.

This training gathered women from the Akatsi North and South districts in the Volta region to gain knowledge on corruption and the role women can play using a tool known as Participatory Videoing (PV).

The PV is basically about people recording their own livelihoods and issues affecting their communities using the video camera. It is also used to monitor performance and influence policy makers to bring about a change in the societies in which they live. The PV is a weapon for change and can be used to change communities, districts or even nations.

The four days workshop had two days devoted for training and the final two days for field work. Participants were taken through theoretical concepts on the dynamics of gender and corruption relative to women's efforts in fighting corruption globally.

Participants' knowledge was also broadened on the PV concept and how to handle the camera with its

accompanying accessories. There were practical exercises on preparing the camera for field work, framing, taking shots when shooting, story boarding, types of shots and team work.

The women, who worked under the pseudonym, 'Women in Action against Corruption' (WIAaC), were very enthusiastic to learn and they did so with passion and determination.

The WIAaC group from three different communities identified issues of governance pertaining to their area that they wanted to capture using the PV. After minutes of deliberation, two groups came up with issues on transparency in taxation in their respective communities and the other group settled on sanitation issues in their community. The latter's decision to work on sanitation was based on the lack of portable water supply due to the breakdown of one of their hand pump wells as a result of lack of funds to repair same allegedly due to corruption. The women went to the field guided by the story board they had earlier prepared and took various shots as well

as interviewing the relevant personalities who matter in the story they want to tell using PV. They were very enthusiastic to bring a change in their communities using the power of technology, through PV.

The exercise was very successful as they were confident in what they were doing and were optimistic of the results they want to achieve at the end of it. This was evident as they had the belief that subsequent exercises will bring better hope to the people in their respective communities, and as women, they have a place in trying to mitigate corruption and promote transparency and accountability.

Each of the three communities received a video camera from GII, with GII promising to visit them from time to time to assess how effectively they are using the cameras and the knowledge and skills they acquired from the training. The women's groups promised to use the PV to capture instances of poor service delivery and shoddy project executions. This will be used to demand remedial action.



Participants at the PV Training capturing shots of issues identified for advocacy

PRESS RELEASE

GII SPEAKS OUT AGAINST STATE SPONSORED PILGRIMAGES

Ghana Integrity Initiative has noted with grave concern the government's decision to extend an unsolicited offer to Christian groups to nominate their members to undertake a religious pilgrimage to Jerusalem. The sponsorship for the trip was supposed to have been made by an unnamed entity which itself raises a lot of suspicion. Much as GII agrees that Christians are Ghanaians and are entitled to a fair share of the nation's resources, GII believes that there are better and more effective ways of distributing national resources than offering unsolicited funded pilgrimages to religious groups.

GII recalls that in the past both the National Democratic Congress and the New Patriotic Party have sponsored identified Muslims to undertake pilgrimages to Saudi Arabia on regular basis. GII has noted further that these governmental gestures have tended to be rewards for political support from party members. The selections of beneficiaries have been conducted along party lines as Members of Parliament (MPs) and Metropolitan, Municipal and District Chiefs Executives (MMDCEs) are normally asked to nominate persons to participate in the pilgrimage. Moreover, Muslims who have the resources to undertake the pilgrimage on their own have taken advantage of these gestures and abused the "show of love by the President." Some of these beneficiaries have included Senior Civil Servants, Ministers, Members of Parliament, and party leaders. In some cases, members of the Hajj Planning Committee and other influential persons have allegedly abused the gesture and traveled with their spouses and other family members at state expense when they can afford to fund the trip themselves.

When the NDC assumed power in 2009, that government was alleged to have sponsored about 400 pilgrims at a minimum of \$4,000.00 per head. In addition, some of those pilgrims were allegedly transported to Accra by various MMDAs at state expense while some of them also allegedly paid pocket allowances for the pilgrimages.

The Holy Quran is very clear about the pilgrimage. It addresses the people who can afford to undertake the pilgrimage to undertake such pilgrimage. It does not encourage those who cannot afford and it does not encourage the use of public resources to fund pilgrimages.

After several years of this discrimination, the NDC government has now found it necessary to extend this show of profligate state expenditure to a selected Christian community by providing unsolicited full support to those who had never sought any support from the government to travel on pilgrimage to Israel. This is similar to huge donations by government to families at the funerals of influential people.

Ghana is currently facing many developmental challenges reflected in inadequate infrastructure, poor water supply, unreliable energy system, a failing school system and inadequate healthcare delivery among many others. The National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) has virtually collapsed and has consistently failed to pay service providers, including the Christian Association of Health Care Providers, for almost a year. It was only until some of them withdrew their services that any attempt has been made to pay them for past service rendered. The only credible reason for this unacceptable state of affairs is the lack of funds. Any ruling party must eschew undue partisanship and/or self-interest, vote buying and abuse of power. The cardinal purpose for which public resources should be put is for the provision of quality and dedicated service to the citizens and national development and not for narrow parochial partisan interests. GII urges any group of people and any political party which finds itself in power to always put the interest of the nation first. In the current situation, GII strongly calls on the government to abort the plans to sponsor the unsolicited pilgrimage of Christian religious leaders to Israel and other religious groups to their various holy grounds. The government should offer the nation an explanation as to the source of the sponsorship as alleged by the Minister for Youth and Sports in his letter written to the intended beneficiaries. The volume of the resources involved should not be an issue of debate. These religious pilgrimages should not be funded by the state.

The NDC government should be looking at providing solutions to the myriad of problems facing the nation such as the energy crisis and water situation which has rendered life miserable for many Ghanaians including Christians and

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Promoting transparency and accountability in basic school management

The MISEREOR Education programme is one of the components of the MISEREOR project support to the Ghana Integrity Initiative. This project seeks to promote transparency and accountability in basic school financial management and to promote parents' participation in the governance of the schools.

GII undertook two-day training workshops in Bolgatanga, Berekum and Afransi districts in the Upper East, Brong-Ahafo and Central regions respectively from the March 11th-26th, 2013. These training workshops were intended to build the capacity of School Management Committees (SMCs) and Parent Teacher Associations (PTAs) in thirty schools in the three districts to empower them to demand transparency and accountability in the management of school resources and decision making. Other stakeholders included in this programme were representatives of the District Education Directorates and Assemblies. The objectives of the training include:

- To promote participation of key stakeholders in the management of basic

schools, contributing to the improvement of education performance;

- To improve the management of basic education finances, in particular, and school management, in general, aimed at achieving value-for-money and bringing about improved performance in basic education in selected districts.

All topics treated at the workshops helped equip the participants with the capacity to be able to develop plans to enable them to actively implement activities aimed at promoting transparency and accountability and parent's participation in the governance of the schools. This included the monitoring of resource flows, particularly, the capitation grant, to these schools and their utilisation. Thus, after each of the workshops, a team referred to as the Community Based Monitoring and Evaluation Team (COBMET) was established to monitor resource flows and utilisation of such resources. Each of the teams developed clear

time bound work plans to implement in their communities with the assistance of the Circuit Supervisors and the support of the head teachers who were also present at each workshop.

It is expected that the implementation of the activities of the project will lead to the following outcomes:

- Increased transparency in school finance management;
- Increased parent participation in school management and activities;
- Institutionalisation of the COBMETs as a tool for enhancing school performance;
- Remedial action taken on findings and recommendations of COBMETs;
- Policy reforms on results of COBMETs' monitoring activities;
- Enhanced engagement between parents and education authorities at the local level.

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GII SPEAKS OUT AGAINST STATE SPONSORED PILGRIMAGES

Muslims rather than trying to score unnecessary political points where none is needed or has been asked for. The interests of such people and the secular needs of such people can be better served by providing them the much needed facilities which they currently lack and which can make their lives worthwhile than transporting them to faraway lands on the excuse of meeting their spiritual needs. The NDC government should rather focus on providing the essential needs of these people. GII calls on the government to stop this discriminatory practice and address the priorities of the majority of the people in this country.

Furthermore, GII calls on all the Christian groups that have received this unsolicited offer to reject it outright if they are really Christians that think of the poor and marginalized in society. Those who can afford to go on pilgrimage should go at their own expense and not tap on the limited resources of the state to fulfil their religious obligations.

Finally, GII wishes to make it clear that it has no problems with any religious group or with people undertaking pilgrimage of any form, be it religious, political or what have you. In fact, GII has two senior religious leaders, the Metropolitan Catholic Archbishop of Accra and the Ameer of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Mission in Ghana, on its Board of Directors who have always provided dedicated service, including spiritual guidance, to the board and the GII entity.

Issued by Ghana Integrity Initiative

Monday, 18th March, 2013.

FIGHTING OVER AFRICA'S MINERAL RESOURCES

The world's biggest mining investment conference, "Investing in African Mining Indaba" took place in Cape Town, South Africa from February, 2013. The Mining Indaba covers the same ground as a showcase for mining across Africa. The exhibitors were mining companies trying to present their potential to an investment audience while the African nations were looking to attract global miners to exploit their mineral potential. The conference participants also included manufacturers and service companies seeking to sell their wares and expertise to the industry in Africa. The Mining Indaba attracted more than 7,000 individuals, representing about 1,500 international companies from 100 countries, as well as government delegations and some civil society representatives.

While this international conference of the mining giants was going on, representatives of civil society organizations, mainly from Southern African countries with a few from other countries, were also holding what they described as the "Alternative Mining Indaba" in a much less expensive hotel but not too far from the Cape Town International Conference Centre (CTICC). The CSO Alternative Mining Indaba adopted a Declaration and matched to the CTICC on its second day to present to the authorities. The import of the Declaration was that the government and the mining sector were placing profits ahead of people, the environment and sustainability. The CSO demonstrators were led by the Anglican Bishop of Pretoria Joe Seoka.

However, the government and organisers of the official indaba refused to accept the declaration from the demonstrators when they arrived at the gate of the CTICC. The group numbering over a hundred protesters waited in vain to hand over the petition and finally handed it to a representative from Parliament's portfolio committee on mineral resources. The group's leader stated clearly that "We are also objecting that this indaba only has government, the investors (in the mining sector) and those who control the mines. There are no union or labour representatives," None of South Africa's main labour movements had delegates attending the indaba and there was no presentations on the issue of labour relations. The group expressed disgust on the absence of the "real owners of the mineral resources — the people of South Africa" at the indaba.

Find below the Declaration that was adopted by the CSO, Alternative Mining Indaba and presented to the South African authorities.

Declaration

We, members of Civil Society, having gathered at the 4th Alternative Mining Indaba (AMI)/in a Peoples' Indaba in Cape Town from 3rd to 5th February, 2013, comprising Faith Based Organisations, Pan-African Networks and Organisations, Trade Unions, Traditional Authorities/Leaders, Non Governmental Organisations and Community Based Organisations express our outrage at the Marikana tragedy because it could have been avoided if the company, trade unions and the government had acted responsibly;

We express our condolences and stand in solidarity with the families of the victims and survivors. We re-iterate that the "Corporate Mining Indaba 2013" excludes the participation of the actual owners of the mineral resources that are the basis of their meeting and therefore fail woefully to address environmental degradation, deepening of poverty, slippages in the quality of life and concentrating instead on the reckless pursuit of profit at any cost throughout the continent and the world;

The three-day Alternative Mining Indaba 2013:

1. Deliberated the ongoing continental mining reform agenda represented by the Africa Mining Vision and its potential;
2. Debated and analysed government policies and programmes for redressing environmental impacts of mining activities as well as compensation issues for communities affected by mining activities;
3. Broadened our understanding of economic and financial policies that facilitate tax avoidance and evasion in the mining sector such as transfer pricing, opaque investment contracts and bilateral investment treaties;
4. Shared experiences and justice and peace promoting strategies about the need for a new framework which puts people, environment and communities at the centre of development and not profits.

We now therefore:

1. Call on communities affected by mining to unite in national, regional and international coalitions and movements to fight for social and economic justice in the exploitation of mineral and other natural resources in their communities;
2. Demand ongoing and open negotiations and not "seasonal consultations" with the host communities by corporations and governments on the progress, impacts and declared resources extracted from their land;
3. Echo the sentiments of John Ruggie, former Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General on business & human rights, with regards to the company having the responsibility to respect the decision of the communities underpinned by concept of Free Prior Informed Consent, the state having the responsibility to protect and stand by community decision and the community to have a full access to duty bearers' remedy;
4. Call on African governments to effectively implement the Africa Mining Vision in a way that serves and addresses the needs of our countries;
5. Demand independent and meaningful Environmental and Social Impact Assessment, Strategic Impact Assessment, Health Risk Assessment, Social Impact Assessment, and Environmental Management Programmes;
6. Call on African government to work with the communities to pursue alternative development paths beyond mining;
7. Demand that our governments show leadership and be more transparent and

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PRESS RELEASE

THE SAVANNAH ACCELERATED DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (SADA) MUST NOT BE ALLOWED TO FAIL

For some time now, the media has debating some disturbing news about the guinea fowl project that is being sponsored by the Savannah Accelerated Development Authority (SADA). The media must be commended for its continued efforts to hold public officers accountable and to insist that public resources are utilised effectively and efficiently and to the common good of the citizens. The Chief Executive of the SADA, Alhaji Gilbert Seidu Iddi, in response, indicated that the Authority would hold a press conference to lay bare the facts on how an amount of GH¢15 million has been invested in the guinea fowl project as a part of the SADA project.

Furthermore, Parliament has also indicated that they would bring the Chief Executive before the House to explain why the afforestation project embarked upon by the Authority was not progressing as expected. An NGO called Asongtaba Cottage Industries, owned by Mr Roland Agambire, the CEO of rlg, a mobile manufacturing company, is alleged to have been provided with an amount of GH¢33 million to plant trees in the re-afforestation project. The results of this project, at least in the number of trees planted, are yet to be seen as only 300,000 trees out of a total of a planned 5 million trees, are alleged to have been planted so far in nine months. Parliament is obviously not satisfied with the progress of the project so far. The excuse that the trees were destroyed by bush fires is not convincing because bush fires are a normal feature in Northern Ghana and parts of the Brong Ahafo region. This makes it imperative for SADA to have put in place measures to protect the young trees from these fires. It is constructive to note that the same company is behind these two projects.

Parliament's decision to invite the Chief Executive of SADA to answer questions is, therefore, welcome news. We expect Parliament to play its oversight role more effectively on a regular basis and save the country from unnecessary waste of public resources and not to wait until the end of the year when the Auditor-General submits his reports to them at the time when it becomes too late to take any corrective and punitive measures. Besides, Parliament's oversight role should not be limited to the use of financial resources only but include the investigation of any inaction or inappropriate action by public officers appointed to manage state resources

Another SADA project that seems to have stalled is the mango project that has not received the needed media attention. According to our sources of information, the land clearing for a total land area of 500 acres for the four mango farmers, which was supposed to have started in October/November 2012, has up to the time of this statement not commenced. Once the rains start, the bulldozers will not be able to work on the land as they will get stuck in the muddy terrain. A similar delay in 2011 led to the failure of the project to take off when the tractors came late.

Moreover, the 200 boreholes, which were supposed to be drilled in the four mango project sites at about GH¢20,000 each, have still not been drilled. The contractor that was awarded the contract to drill the boreholes has since retreated that he can only drill 70 boreholes for the project sites with the amount of money provided. This raises eye brows concerning the transparency and appropriateness surrounding the award of the contract.

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FIGHTING OVER AFRICA'S MINERAL RESOURCES

accountable with regards to protecting the mineral resources and human rights of their people;

8. Call on governments to hold mining companies accountable for externalizing costs, and to ensure that mining revenues are redistributed equitably;
9. Demand that corporations' tax responsibilities be increased and not override their corporate social responsibility;
10. Demand that African states should fully exercise their sovereign rights to impose their desired tax regimes to enable them provide social services;
11. Demand for greater transparency and accountability laws, policies and systems in order to tackle secrecy, structures and investments that facilitate tax avoidance and evasion;
12. Call upon African governments to strengthen their capacities to collect the rightful share of revenue from corporations.

We hereby avow our commitment to the above stated issues and pledge our on-going support on the same with unflinching resolve and adamance! We are also committed to working together with communities and other progressive forces to ensure that these demands are met.

Declared

At the 4th Alternative Mining Indaba held at the Strand Tower Hotel in Cape Town, South Africa on 5 February 2013 with participants from: Zimbabwe, South Africa, Mozambique, Tanzania, Zambia, Botswana, Ghana, Namibia, Kenya, Angola, Malawi, Mauritius and Democratic Republic of Congo. We were also joined in solidarity by participants from Burma, Peru, Canada, Norway, Belgium, United Kingdom and Sweden.

GII Activities for the quarter (January-March, 2013)

WOMEN AND YOUTH AGAINST CORRUPTION- TI REGIONAL WORKSHOP IN ACCRA



"Market Place" Session- a showcase of some youth/women engagement project by some TI Chapters



Some participants at the programme



Ms. Mary Addah (Programms Officer of GII) with a participant from Liberia

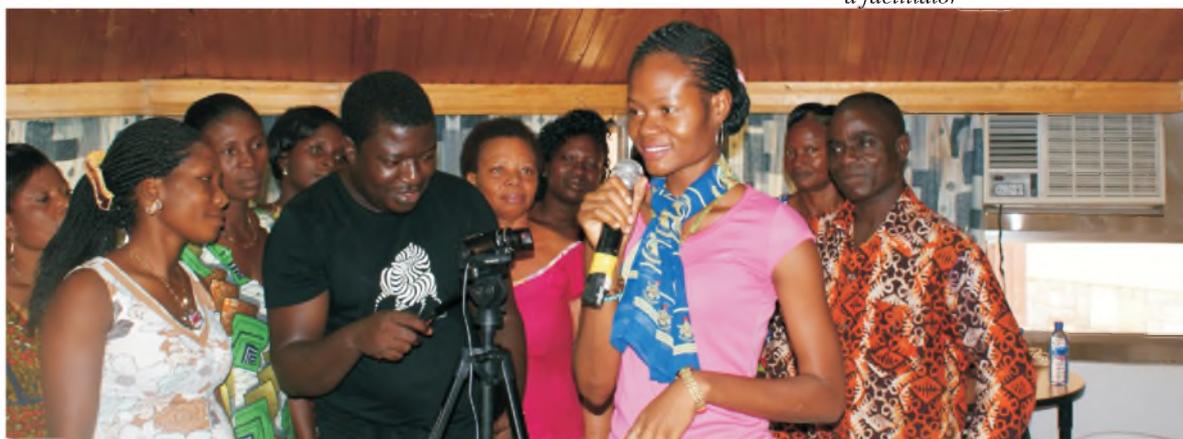
PARTICIPATORY VIDEO TRAINING FOR WOMEN IN AKATSI SOUTH AND NORTH



Group picture of participants at the PV Training



Participants at the PV Training listening attentively to a facilitator



Nana Saah Aboagye , a Programme Officer of GII (in black T-Shirt) explaining a point to some participants at the PV Training session

GII Activities for the quarter (January-March, 2013)

MISEREOR ACTIVITIES IN PICTURES

MISEREOR-AFRANSI



Participants in an attentive mood during a presentation at the main session at the Misereor workshop



Participants in a plenary session at the Misereor workshop

MISEREOR-BOLGATANGA



Participants developing work plans at the Misereor workshop



Participants in a group picture

MISEREOR-BEREKUM



Participants developing work plans at the Misereor workshop



Participants at the main session at the Misereor workshop

PRESS STATEMENT

Issued by the Ghana Integrity Initiative (GII) on February, 2013

Declare Your Assets-Outgoing and Incoming Officials

In the last week, GII has used the airwaves to remind the President, His Excellency John Dramani Mahama, Vice President, His Excellency Amissah Arthur, the Right Honourable Speaker of Parliament and about 273 Parliamentarians who were all sworn into office on January 7, 2013 to declare their assets and liabilities as required by the 1992 Constitution of the Republic of Ghana.

Today, GII wishes to formally remind the following key public officials to declare their assets and liabilities as required by the 1992 Constitution of Ghana:

- a) The President
- b) The Vice President
- c) The Speaker of Parliament
- d) The two Deputy Speakers of Parliament
- e) All members of Parliament
- f) Any Ministers whose appointment have been endorsed by parliament and who have since been sworn into office.
- g) Any other public officers who have been appointed recently and other new Article 71 officers.

Furthermore, GII wishes to call on the following public officials who have left office following the December 7 elections to declare their assets and liabilities to the Auditor General as required by the 1992 Constitution of Ghana.

- a) The out-gone President
- b) The out-gone Vice President
- c) The out-gone Speaker of Parliament
- d) The two out-gone Deputy Speakers of Parliament
- e) All members of Parliament who were in office up to the December 7, 2012 elections whether re-elected or not.
- f) All Ministers in the previous administration whether re-appointed or not
- g) Any other public officers whose appointments came to an end in December 2012.

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THE SAVANNAH ACCELERATED DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (SADA) MUST NOT BE ALLOWED TO FAIL

The seemingly and apparent failures of the SADA project are worrying as the SADA seems to be going in the same direction as similar projects that were initiated for the people of the North in the past. GII calls on Parliament to go beyond merely calling on the Chief Executive to answer questions in the comfort of the Parliament House and invoke Article 278 of the Constitution and, by a resolution, request that a commission of inquiry be appointed to inquire into the issues emerging from the entire SADA projects as they are matters of public importance.

Alternatively, an independent investigator such as the Commission for Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ) should undertake this investigation as GII cannot rule out political interests in all these allegations. Such an investigation would also ensure public confidence in the outcomes of the investigation. This proposed investigation should not be a way of distracting public attention from the saga. There appears to be procurement issues as well that need to be looked into.

This is necessary in order to ensure that SADA does not become one of the failed projects that have been initiated in the past to help reduce poverty in the North and bridge the gap between the northern and southern parts of the country.

In the meantime, GII wishes to put forward the following questions to the SADA authorities:

1. Were the procurement processes followed in selecting partners and contractors to carry out the SADA sponsored projects
2. What are the main causes of the delays in the implementation of the SADA sponsored projects
3. What led to the reduction of the boreholes that were planned to be drilled and what would be the effect on the project
4. Can the management of SADA assure Ghanaians that some of the SADA resources were not diverted for political and personal purposes, as is being suspected

Thank you,

Issued by Ghana Integrity Initiative (GII)

PRESS STATEMENT

GII sees this as a constitutional duty that those who swore to uphold the constitution abide by it. Article 286 of Ghana's 1992 Constitution requires that:

A person who holds a public office submits to the Auditor-General a written declaration of all property or assets owned by, or liabilities owed by, him **whether directly or indirectly**.

- (a) before taking office;
- (b) at the end of every four years; and
- (c) at the end of his term of office.

There is no alternative to the constitutional provision with regards to time of declaration other than the above three instances.

GII is aware that the Public Office Holders (Disqualification and Assets Declaration) Act, 1998 (Act 550) states among others that, "... and, shall in any event, be submitted not later than six months of the occurrence of any of the events specified in this subsection". Clearly, this conflicts with the constitutional provision and is automatically rendered invalid. Some of these public officers are lawyers and should know better.

GII wishes to alert these public officers that we are aware that in 2009, about 70 Members of Parliament declared their assets after July 7, 2009, contravening not only the Constitution but also the Act (550), including one that declared as late as November, 2009. We expect better of our elected representatives.

We wish to remind them of Article 286 (2) of the Constitution which states that: "Failure to declare (**TIMELY - ours**) or knowingly making false declaration shall be a contravention of this Constitution and shall be dealt with in accordance with article 287 of this Constitution".

We wish to remind these political office holders and their parties of the promises they made to Ghanaians with regards to the fight against corruption. They should view the requirement to declare their assets and liabilities as an anti-corruption tool and so comply to show they are committed to fighting corruption. GII will continue to remind them of this commitment at the least opportunity.

Furthermore, GII throws a challenge to the Auditor-General who is custodian of the Assets declarations to publish on a monthly basis those officers who have declared their assets and liabilities so that Ghanaians can identify the defaulters for themselves.

The Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice must be ready to carry out investigations into allegations of non-compliance. The President must also sanction the Ministers who have not declared their assets without any further delay, having done so himself.

Issued by Ghana Integrity Initiative

"The President must be prompt and order investigations into allegations of corruption and he must make the reports public; this helps in the fight against corruption."

Mr. Vitus Adaboo Azeem, Executive Director, GII
Source: The Ghanaian Times-April 18th, 2013

THOUGHTS OF GOLD

"We cheat ourselves in order to enjoy a quiet conscience, without possessing virtue."

Madam de LAMBERT (1647-1733)-
French Author

CORRUPTION ISSUES IN AFRICA AND AROUND THE GLOBE



MEXICO

Mexico Teachers Union Boss Arrested For Corruption

Elba Esther Gordillo, the head of Mexico's powerful teachers union and an influential political figure, has been arrested for allegedly embezzling millions of dollars for personal use, including plastic surgery and shopping sprees, authorities said.

Attorney General Jose Murillo Karam said Gordillo was arrested Tuesday at the airport of Toluca, some 60 kilometers west of the capital, and was poised to appear before a judge.

Speaking to reporters, Murillo Karam said the Finance Ministry's financial analysis unit detected unusual activity that led to the discovery of multiple operations worth some 2 billion pesos (about \$156 million) from accounts belonging to the National Union of Education Workers (SNTE).

Authorities uncovered a complicated network of transfers, with authorities discovering the money went towards plastic surgery, shopping at luxury stores in the United States -- including \$3 million at one department store alone -- as well as the acquisition of property and even artwork.

In addition, \$2 million dollars of union money made it into accounts in Switzerland and Liechtenstein.

Gordillo, 68, has headed the union, which has some 1.4 million members and is among the largest in Latin America, with an iron fist since 1989. Known for her luxurious lifestyle, she was secretary general of the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) -- which regained power last December -- from 2002 to 2005.

With the strength of the union behind her, she went on to form the New Alliance Party after her split with the PRI.

Gordillo's contribution to Felipe Calderon's tight presidential victory in 2006 made her a privileged partner of the former government with a strong influence over Mexican education matters.

With the swearing in of President Enrique Pena Nieto last December, marking the return to power of the PRI after a 12-year absence, Gordillo found herself at odds with Education Minister Emilio Chuayffet.

Gordillo's arrest, along with three others, comes a day after the enactment of education reform in this country of nearly 112 million where 64 percent of children complete elementary school.

lp-jcb/vlk/lc

<http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/130227/mexico-teachers-union-boss-arrested-corruption>

Source: globalpost

Lessons learnt:

Several workers' leaders in Ghana believe that they are independent of government action because they are not paid from government coffers. This thinking must change as the leaders are paid from their contributions of their members who can make complaints of corruption to appropriate authorities. Some of these leaders make investments with the contributions of their members. The investments must not only yield returns but also benefit the members. They must account properly to these members.

NIGERIA

Nigerian Farouk Lawan charged over \$3m fuel scam 'bribe'

Farouk Lawan was taken into custody after being charged in court in Abuja over the \$3m bribe. The Nigerian MP who headed an inquiry which found that a fuel subsidy scam had cost the country \$6.8bn (£4.2bn) has been charged with corruption.

Farouk Lawan is alleged to have collected \$500,000 of a \$3m bribe solicited from an oil tycoon to drop his company from the investigation.

The legislator pleaded not guilty in court and was taken into custody until a bail hearing on 8 February.

His supporters say he is being targeted by those implicated in his probe.

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Nigeria is Africa's leading oil producer but has to import most of its fuel.

Last year, Mr Lawan chaired the House of Representative's committee that produced the fuel scam report, accusing some of those who import fuel of massive corruption.

It called for a total overhaul of the oil ministry and for the prosecution of companies and some powerful individuals who had benefited from the swindle.

The investigation was set up in the wake of angry nationwide protests in January 2012 after the government tried to remove a fuel subsidy.

'Expose blackmail'

The oil billionaire, Femi Otedola, has alleged the lawmaker demanded the \$3m bribe in order to have his company, Zenon, removed from a list of those involved in the scandal.

Part of that money was handed over and a video recording of the transaction was given to police, he said.

"You Farouk Lawan... in the course of your official duty corruptly asked for the sum of \$3m for yourself from Femi Otedola... to afterwards show favour to Femi Otedola," Reuters news agency quotes the charges read out in the Abuja High Court.

Another member of Mr Lawan's parliamentary fuel subsidy committee, Emenalo Boniface, was also charged in court on Friday with corruption for accepting \$120,000 of the \$3m bribe from Mr Otedola.

Mr Lawan has said he accepted the money in order to expose blackmail and informed the committee and the anti-corruption agency, the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), about it.

But the committee's deputy leader says he was not informed and nor did he receive any of the money. The EFCC has not commented.

The initial fuel subsidy report said Zenon owed more than \$1m to the government.

Legislators later voted to remove the firm from the final report.

Mr Otedola is a close ally of President Goodluck Jonathan and a major financier of the ruling People's Democratic Party.

The BBC's Bashir Abdullahi in Abuja says as it is illegal to give as well as take bribes in Nigeria, some people have asked why Mr Otedola is not also facing any legal action.

But if Mr Otedola was acting as part of a sting operation for Nigeria's intelligence agency, the State Security Services (SSS), as he has claimed, he will not be charged, but may be called as a witness, our reporter says.

Source: Reuters/BBC



Mr. Farouk Lawan

Lessons learnt:

It is very rare to have a Ghanaian legislator arrested. In fact, it is very difficult because a legislator cannot be arrested without the permission of the Right Honourable Speaker. Obviously, the legislator would miss important business in Parliament. The law enforcement agencies cannot arrest a legislator on his way to Parliament or home from Parliament. There are no time specifications. Something needs to be done about this. Let us learn from our neighbours.

Integrity Spotlight

"An unjust acquisition is like a barbed arrow, which must be drawn backward with horrible anguish, or else will be your destruction."

-Jeremy TAYLOR (1613-1667)-English Bishop



Former California city officials convicted in corruption trial

Five former elected officials from the scandal-plagued California city of Bell were convicted of misusing municipal funds by collecting exorbitant salaries in a case that drew national attention as a symbol of public corruption.

The trial stemmed from an explosive scandal in Bell, a small, mostly blue-collar municipality near Los Angeles, following revelations in 2010 that its city manager, Robert Rizzo, was paid a salary of \$787,000 - or nearly twice that of President Barack Obama.

Rizzo faces a separate trial with his onetime assistant, Angela Spaccia, on public corruption-related charges. The Bell scandal fueled a statewide debate over public pay and led to upheaval in the city of over 35,000 residents, who in 2011 voted to replace all their council members.

Capping two weeks of deliberations, a Los Angeles County jury found ex-Mayor Oscar Hernandez and former City Council members Teresa Jacobo and George Mirabal each guilty on five felony counts of misappropriation of public funds and acquitted them of five other counts.

Former Councilman George Cole was convicted of two counts and acquitted of two others, while ex-Councilman Victor Bellow was found guilty of four counts and acquitted of four others.

A sixth defendant, former Councilman Luis Artiga, was acquitted of all 12 counts against him. He wept as Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Kathleen Kennedy told him he was free to go.

After acquitting Artiga, the jury of seven women and five men said they had deadlocked, 9-3, on remaining counts against his five co-defendants. They went home for the day and were expected to return on Thursday morning to resume deliberations.

One juror sent the court a note after the guilty verdicts were reached in which he said he had questions about information he felt had not been "presented properly," and had left him with doubts

Cole's attorney, Ronald Kaye, seized on the note to ask the judge to question the juror about his verdict, on the grounds that he may have had a doubt that would undermine the panel's unanimous decision on the guilty verdicts. Judge Kennedy said she was "not going to re-open verdicts that have been reached."

All six former officials on trial had been accused of giving themselves extravagant pay for sitting on various municipal boards - the Community Housing Authority, Surplus Property Authority, Public Financing Authority and Solid Waste and Recycling Authority - that rarely met to conduct business.

Bellow's attorney, Leo Moriarty, said outside court it was unclear how much time behind bars the convicted defendants could face, but he added that they could be sentenced to probation under the counts on which they have been found guilty.

Defense lawyers argued that their clients were wrongly accused, had worked hard for the city and earned their salaries.

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“Corruption is worse than prostitution. The latter might endanger the morals of an individual; the former invariably endangers the morals of the whole country.”

Honourable Anne Makinda, Speaker of Parliament-Tanzania

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The eight former city officials arrested in September 2010 in the investigation were collectively accused of bilking taxpayers out of roughly \$5.5 million through excessive salaries, benefits and illicit loans of public money. Then-Los Angeles County District Attorney Steve Cooley called it a case of "corruption on steroids."

The Bell scandal came to light when the Los Angeles Times in a series of articles revealed the city's officials had secretly enriched themselves, and the paper won the Pulitzer Prize in 2011 for its coverage of the story.

Source: Reuters

Lessons learnt:

Does this sound familiar □The GII issued a Press Release on the appointment of board members and the fixing of sitting allowances for board members who in turn fix salaries, allowances and other benefits for the management of the state-owned enterprises they preside over. Some board chairs even have offices in these institutions and the board sits almost every month to earn their huge sitting allowances. Others are paid monthly allowances and provided benefits in kind, including official vehicles, fuel and phones. Is this reasonable □There is the need for a public debate on this.

ZAMBIA

Zambia arrests ex-president over oil deal: spokeswoman

Zambia officially charged former President Rupiah Banda for abuse of authority over a Nigerian oil deal, a government spokeswoman said recently.

Banda, who has been accused of misappropriating more than \$11 million during his three years in office, was arrested and then later released on a bond, said Namukolo Kasumpa, a spokeswoman for the government's investigation team.

Zambia this month stripped Banda of immunity from prosecution, a sign it was getting closer to bringing formal charges against him.

Banda, who led Africa's top copper producer from 2008 to 2011, has maintained his innocence.

The former president was questioned for nearly three hours after his arrest, his lawyer Sakwiba Sikota said, adding that Banda had done nothing wrong.

Banda later appeared before supporters telling them to remain calm and that he would win his case in court.

Banda was defeated in 2011 by rival Michael Sata, whose government has launched several high-profile corruption probes into deals struck by the former administration.

Source: Reuters

Lessons Learnt:

The world seems to be closing in on corrupt public officials, especially as some countries have passed laws criminalizing bribery by their companies and individuals in foreign jurisdictions. The arrest of top officials is a demonstration of the willingness of countries to crack down on corrupt officials. Will this scare Ghanaian public officials □Let us hope so!



“Worldly riches are like nuts; many clothes are torn in getting them, many a tooth broke in cracking them, but never a belly filled with eating them.”

-Ralph VENNING (1620-1673)-English Non-conformist Divine

LAND GRABBING AND CORRUPTION

The phenomenon of land grabbing has taken large scale proportions and has attracted the attention of governments and civil society in many African and developing countries. The worrying aspect of it is the relationship between land grabbing and corruption. It is on this critical note that Transparency International (TI) organised a workshop in Berlin for some African and Latin American chapters and other Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs) working on the phenomenon, land grabbing and corruption, including, the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and Oxfam.

The workshop, which took place from March 19-21, 2013 brought together some TI Chapters who have confronted the issue of land grabbing during their work to identify best practices from other NGOs in order to improve their work on land grabbing. The workshop intended to, among others, exchange expertise and know-how on land-grabbing issues and anti-corruption strategies between anti-corruption practitioners (TI Chapters) and expert organizations working on land-grabbing; to identify existing expertise and best practices on countering corruption and lack of transparency in land-management and land-investment, particularly land grabbing, within the TI movement; and to identify possible joint strategies or activities between TI and participating organizations for concrete action against land-grabbing. The immediate outcome from the workshop was that participants would have developed a roadmap for further work on corruption and land-grabbing, that could then be submitted to The Christensen Fund and other donors for funding for the Chapters to actively engage on issues of land grabbing and corruption.

While used broadly throughout history, land grabbing as used today primarily refers to large-scale land acquisitions by domestic and transnational companies, governments, and individuals in powerful and influential positions following the 2007-2008 world food price crisis.

The phenomenon of land grabbing is particularly evident in places where land governance is weak and where systems and institutions do not function. There is evidence of high levels of corruption. According to Transparency International, in such places, weak land governance tends to be characterised by low levels of transparency, accountability and the rule of law. Under such a system, land distribution is unequal, tenure is insecure, and natural resources are poorly managed. As a consequence, social stability, investment, broad-based economic growth and sustainable development are undermined.

A research by TI on the issue revealed that there is a very strong linkage between levels of corruption in the land sector and overall public sector corruption. This result suggests that countries confronting public sector corruption also suffer from a corrupt land sector. This has implications for ensuring the integrity and effectiveness of initiatives related to natural resource management. For instance, findings from a Transparency International survey in 2009 suggest that the government bodies which oversee the land sector are one of the public entities most plagued by service-level bribery.

It is, therefore, very essential for all to tackle corruption in the land sector which will intrinsically be linked to improving governance of the sector. This is evident from the importance attached by the various bodies on the issue including multilateral organisations such as the FAO, United Nations and the World Bank. Many governments including the government of Ghana have started various initiatives aimed at promoting

transparent, effective and accountable land tenure systems aimed at ensuring that land tenure rights of people are respected, protected and fulfilled. In addition to, effective enforcement, the revision of land policies is one important solution for improving governance in the land sector, particularly with regard to the legal and administrative frameworks. Transparent, accessible and accountable systems of administration of land, whether statutory or customary, can create a basis for corruption-free land dealings. Respect for these systems, however, depends on strong and effective oversight institutions and law enforcement bodies.

A second step to strengthen land governance would be to promote more transparent and effective land certification and registration systems. There are viable and affordable solutions that can ease and simplify the process, and ensure that they are monitored alongside better coordination between various actors. These anticipated changes will result in open access to information and ensure the incorporation of accountability mechanisms to get citizens engaged. Reversing weak governance in the land sector should be seen as a long-term, continual process of steps that demand political will and engagement. Citizens, civil society organisations and the media need to work with government officials and the private sector to find tailored solutions that fit each context.

It is, therefore, timely that the TI movement is beginning to collectively get involved in the issues of land grabbing and corruption at the chapter level. This will help bring about targeted advocacy on the issue of land grabbing and corruption.



Group picture of participants at the Land Grabbing Workshop in Berlin, Germany