

AC Organisation Activity Report June 2008



I. General

- This month highlights the first court case opened as a tool for citizens in the fight against corruption. It has still been active in recruiting victims, publicizing the goal and the objectives of AC Cameroon to Cameroonians, building legitimacy through meetings with other organizations in charge of fighting corruption.

II. Investigations

AC Cameroon was making 10 field missions during the May month. This was because of lack of personnel. This month, AC Cameroon was focused to start with the first court case. Much of efforts were concentrated in the court some others important issues like field investigations were pushed back in priority.

- The number of hotline calls decreased from 50 on May to around 15 in June. This is as a result of shifting focus from processing complaints to legal work.
- Contact was maintained with victims of Etoudi market (shoppers, soya meat sellers and taxi bikes' drivers). This month, traders still complained of two times of officials of Ministry of Trade who are not appointed to control prices in the markets but who are doing it. The agreement between AC Cameroon and them is that the next time that those officials are coming, they should give them an appointment as if they want to pay them the bribe that they asked and this day, AC Cameroon is coming with a bailiff to collect evidences against those officials.
- A problem was raised in Tongolo about the construction of road. The company was contracted for this road's construction was supposed to finish it 6 months ago. But until now it's not the case and people pf this neighbouring believe that there are no sanctions because the owner of this company is a former minister and an actual deputy to National assembly. The question now is whether beneficiaries' development project can be represented in court in case of corruption.
- AC Cameroon received complaints coming from traders of Tongolo. The complainers, who were three, accused the prices controllers appointed by the government and the sanitary service to force them to pay bribe through false accusations. The officials are asking important sums of money like 105 000Fcfa for the first trader, 30 000 for the second and 40 000for the last. The first trader was said he was forced to close his shop because of all this pressure. In one of the incidences, the trader was asked to pay for water that was not removed from the road in construction.

Anti – Corruption Cameroon (AC Cameroon)

Actively pursuing Anti – Corruption Law Enforcement in Cameroon

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- AC Cameroon received also a complaint saying that 4 persons have been sent to jail directly from the police station which if it's true unprocedural. Since 2006 they are still waiting for their case to be examined by the court. This affair has a connection with Hilton events in which a man was killed to Hilton Hotel in Yaounde.
- After trying during two years to get a document needed to execute a court decision, a small businessman was complaining to AC Cameroon explaining that he has identify a court secretary as the problem. AC Cameroon succeeded to solve a problem in court while explaining to the official involve in corruption that he can get in big trouble if he does not stop his action. This demonstrates that the perception of an anti corruption NGO can by itself solve corruption inside the judiciary.
- Beside all those complaints, AC Cameroon was receiving many other phones' calls which are not directly connected with corruption. 5 were to ask advises on procedure to get official documents. 3 were about how to react according to the law against the Delegate of Government who is now destroying houses illegally built in Yaounde. As usual, AC lead the complainers to appropriate NGOs or it just gave legal advice.
- A lecturer of University of Yaounde I said that after correcting copies, some students whom normally failed were declared admitted by the Head of Department. He said this kind of problems in the Cameroonian universities is due to the lack of legal academic rules.
- AC Cameroon is also started investigations on corruption inside Cameroonian army in connection with US Embassy events organized on the same subject. One high officer has already been interviewed. Media
- After AC Cameroon and ADDEC deposited the students' complaint against the Director of Advanced School of Mass Media Communication, a meeting on communication strategy took place at US Embassy with ADDEC, British High Commission, UNDP, Canadian High Commission.
- Meeting with staff of ADDEC took place to elaborate a media strategy and a media guideline about the case deposited in court.

III. Legal

- AC Cameroon got this month the first court case opened. The complaint was deposited to First Instance Court by ADDEC with the assistance of AC Cameroon. The file, after receiving by the President of this court, was quoted to Mr Aminatou Alim to judge it.
- AC Cameroon made 12 field missions in the court. This was to take all the information to make sure that the court case was going to be opened will not be delayed because of problems of procedure. Two high magistrates met from High Court and Court of Appeal were consulted.



- The bailiff made 5 missions this month to legalize sensitive document (authorization of ADDEC) and to make some verifications to Advanced School of Mass Media Communication.
- A draft of contract between Lawyers and victims was finalized and agreed by students of ADDEC.
- AC Cameroon made 5 meetings with lawyers to agree on a legal strategy to open the court case against the Director of Advanced School of Mass Media Communication. The legal strategy was agreed between AC Cameroon and the lawyers.
- The President of AC Cameroon has been selected as a member of Commission on revising anti corruption law. This gives the opportunity to the organization to add its input on the process of fighting corruption through legal tool.

IV. Human Resources

- AC Cameroon interviewed 4 candidates and none was accepted.
- July will be used for rebuilding the AC Cameroon team.

V. Finances

- AC Cameroon is now receiving money regularly from British High Commission.
- AC Cameroon is facing a lot expenses that is out of the budget like paying another lawyer for the same case, the bailiff fees (who has now more than 3missions per month) or phone budget which is always increasing. To solve this issue, AC Cameroon management staff decided to ask funds from Dutch Embassy. Another possibility, which apply for small grant from US Embassy.
- The President of AC Cameroon met the Dutch ambassador on the issue concerning support for AC.

VI. Management

- The head of Senegalese Association was asking to AC Cameroon to simplify the level of French in the French version of concept note so every member will be able to read and understand it. This is a good signal because it shows that people are interesting by the work of AC Cameroon.

VII. Relation with institutions

- Meeting between AC Cameroon's coordinator and the World Bank delegation coming in Cameroon to make some discussion on corruption.
- Meeting with British High Commission about communication and the way that the High Commission can help in improving the fight against corruption in trough legal action.



- The process of legalization of AC is still delaying as the file has not yet left CNR. AC Cameroon will need the help of the international community to solve this situation.
- Meeting to US Embassy with members of international community to set a common way of work in fighting corruption in Cameroon through legal action.

VIII. Relation with NGOs

- This month, the main activity was fighting to get the court case deposited in court. Contact was kept with ADDEC only.
- July month to expand relation with NGOs.

IX. AC FINANCES

The expenditure of A.C. Organization by budgetary heading in June 08

Amount FCFA	Item	Details	Amount in USD
127 500	Investigations	10 field missions	\$ 286,5
413 000	Legal	1 st AC case opened against ASMAC Director	\$ 928,1
8 400	Office	Stationery	\$ 18,9
100 000	Media	Meeting with International Community	\$ 224,7
294 550	Management	Interviews, Meetings	\$ 661,9
943 450	Total Expenditure June		\$ 2 120,1

Total expenditure by Donor for the month of June 08

Amount FCFA	Donor	Amount USD
943 450	British High Commission	\$ 2 120,1
943 450	TOTAL	\$ 2 120,1

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