



Ghana Integrity Initiative
(Local Chapter of Transparency International)

GII Alert

Quarterly Newsletter

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First report on monitoring abuse of incumbency Project in Ghana's 2012 elections launched

Welcome,

Mr. Chairman, Justice Emile Short, distinguished invited guests, friends of the media, the Coalition of civil society organizations "Monitoring the Abuse of Incumbency in the 2012 Elections," comprising the Ghana Integrity Initiative (GII), the Ghana Center for Democratic Development (CDD-Ghana) and the Ghana Anti-Corruption Coalition (GACC) is happy to present to you its first report for your information and public discourse.

Introduction

On the 25th of April 2012, GII, CDD-Ghana and GACC launched a project titled "Monitoring Abuse of Incumbency in Ghana's 2012 Elections." The project will span over the period February 2012 to January 2013 and is supported by STAR-Ghana with funding from DFID, DANIDA, EU and USAID.

The aim of this project is to monitor and expose the extent of both the occurrence and variety, of abuse of incumbency and pre-election political party corruption in Ghana, as a tool for promoting clean and fair elections in the upcoming 2012 elections. Specifically, the project will track the abuse of institutional resources, like state-supported or organized platforms and state assets, budget resources, state media resources by the ruling party, sitting members of parliament and other current appointees; as well as monitor electoral corruption.

Abuse of Incumbency and Political Corruption

The 1992 Constitution of the Republic of Ghana makes it clear that political participation and competition must be fair. That is why Article 55 of the Constitution guarantees a right to all citizens to join and participate in the activities of political parties. It goes further to insist on equal access to the use of state media resources for political parties and their presidential candidates.

The Constitution provides these rules because in essence, a political party is a private association of individuals with political objectives that seek to capture public power and to serve the public interest. When a member of a political party is therefore elected or appointed to a public office as President, Minister of State or Member of Parliament, that person becomes a public officer and is covered by Article 284 (relating to the code of conduct for public officers).

If that officer uses his office or public resources to benefit his/her party or him/herself and gives his/her party or him/herself an illegal advantage he or she is placed in a conflict of interest situation and has abused incumbency.

By abusing the resources available to public officers and engaging in electoral corruption, incumbents and political actors jeopardize the vitality and legitimacy of the election processes and outcomes.

There are two types of actions that compose "abuse of incumbency," "coercive" and "corrupt" practice. Coercive abuse of incumbency includes physically preventing candidates from advertising, blocking the use of municipal facilities for campaign events, denying opponents the right to engage citizens through the national media and securing votes through threats against voters. Corrupt abuse includes using state resources to fund electoral campaign such as state-funded political advertising for incumbent parties or candidates or using public employees as campaign staff and public transport facilities for electoral purposes. Corrupt abuse also comprises vote buying.

This is the first report on the observations of Abuse of Incumbency and electoral corruption presented by the Coalition covering the months of May and June 2012.

Scope and Methodology

The first aspect of the project involves the monitoring of abuse of incumbency in thirty selected consistencies across

contd. on page 3

In This Issue

7. Senior police officers admit extortion culture in Police Service.
9. Executive Director of GII awarded with Global Excellence Award for Integrity in Leadership.
10. A citation on behalf of the awardees of the Global Leadership Training 2012
11. Women acquire aptitude on Tax matters.
16. An epic on Prof. John Evans Atta Mills. GHANA mourns a President.

Editorial Team

Prof. Audrey Gadzekpo
Vitus A. Azeem
Linda Ofori-Kwafo
Likem H. Senaya

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

Towards peaceful elections in December

It is very interesting and equally important that virtually everybody is talking about having peaceful elections in December. Ghanaians need peace to live their lives and carry out their daily chores without any disturbances. The fact that everybody is calling for peace also means that everybody has a role to play in bringing about the much-needed peace and acceptable elections.

Peaceful elections can only take place when everybody, including both contestants and the electorate, is satisfied that there is a level playing field for all parties and contestants, whether they belong to the ruling party or the opposition parties which hope to become the next party in power. The campaigns must be fair. In other words, every contestant and party must have equal access to resources and opportunities available for the campaigns. Every contestant must feel free to campaign without fear of intimidation.

Peaceful elections can only come about when political leaders assure the citizens that they are committed to doing everything possible to ensure peaceful elections not only in words but also in their actions. A serious political leader must not only condemn violence but take action to ensure that there is no violence or that when it occurs, the necessary sanctions are applied to the perpetrators, especially if they belong to the same party.

It is, therefore, even more interesting that the political leaders are speaking so much about the need for peaceful elections, even when they are perceived to be the ones that can really ensure peace. It is these politicians that are perceived to recruit macho men (and women) to harass their opponents and yet in public they are the ones that are calling for peaceful elections. When there is violence, it is the politicians and leaders that must not only condemn the violence but also ensure that the perpetrators are found and sanctioned. However, politicians who allege violence often forget about it when they have won the elections and even the losers do not have the moral courage to demand sanctions on the perpetrators, probably because they were the perpetrators. President Barack Obama of the USA told Ghanaians during his visit to Ghana that we needed strong institutions and not strong people for democracy to thrive. The Military and the Police Service must be given the necessary resources and powers to carry out their duties aimed at ensuring that there is peace leading to, during and after the national elections. More importantly, the security agencies must be given the necessary independence to carry out their duties.

However, the security agencies themselves must use these necessary resources, power and independence to carry out their duties without fear or favour. The security agencies must see it as their responsibility to identify and arrest any persons or groups of persons that are a threat to the peace or are actually carrying out acts of vandalism and other acts that threaten the peace.

Ghanaians themselves must see it as their responsibility to ensure that we have peaceful elections and that the elections are fair and legitimate. Our youth should not yield to promises of jobs that do not exist and sell their consciences for a mere pittance. They should not engage in unnecessary fights that can lead to serious injuries and even deaths for political parties and politicians who cannot create lives or replace lives or even body parts.

contd. on page 3

First report on monitoring abuse of incumbency Project in Ghana's 2012 elections launched

the ten regions of Ghana. As part of the project activities, the Coalition purposively selected thirty (30) constituencies out of two hundred and thirty (230) existing constituencies in the country for observation. The constituencies were selected based on where ministers of state, sitting Members of Parliament (MPs), political party officials and Metropolitan, Municipal, District Chief Executives (MMDCs) are contesting elections. An observer was recruited from each of the thirty constituencies while five observers were recruited to monitor the use of media resources. These observers were trained on the monitoring indicators developed for the project. The observers were deployed to start the observation from 1st May, 2012. The constituency observers attended public and political functions in the constituencies, in particular, and captured instances of abuse of incumbency and electoral corruption, using telephones, cameras and recorders. They compiled their reports and submitted them weekly to GII.

Coercive abuse of incumbency includes physically preventing candidates from advertising; blocking the use of municipal facilities for campaign events; denying opponents the right to engage citizens through the national media and securing votes through threats against voters.

The second aspect of the project involved the monitoring of two state-owned newspapers (Daily Graphic and Ghanaian Times), one state-owned weekly paper (and Spectator), one state owned television station (GTV) and one state owned radio station (Uniiq FM).

contd. from page 1

Towards peaceful elections in December

Ghana is largely a religious country and no religion in the country preaches violence although some of them may be committed to supporting certain political parties. No religious group should, therefore, perceive itself as being the determining factors of who gets to rule Ghana and, therefore, demand special concessions as a condition for their support.

Religious leaders must use their pulpits to entreat their congregations to desist from violence and contribute their quota to peaceful elections. They must be entreated to desist from selling their votes for money and whatever benefits. They should pray fervently for God to guide them in the way they vote so that Ghana would get a god-fearing President who is incorruptible and sincere. All elected officials must live according to their commitment to public service and the people that believe in this principle must be the ones that are voted into power.

GII wishes to call on all political parties and candidates to do everything possible to ensure peaceful, fair and acceptable election results. All other citizens also have a role to ensure this and we must all play our appropriate roles effectively if we hope to have a better life for ourselves and future generations.

On media monitoring, both qualitative and quantitative content analysis tools were used to analyse data received from the media monitoring of news stories, features, articles, editorials, space and time allocation. The quantitative tool allowed the researchers to capture verbatim content of advertisement and direct quotes in terms of news prominence and the tone of news coverage whilst the qualitative evaluation allowed the language used and the messages conveyed to be analysed.

The media observers also submit weekly reports on their observations to GII. The Steering Committee of the Coalition then collates and analyses the reports.

A draft report is reviewed and finalised by a Project Review Committee comprising Mr. Justice Emile Short, Chairman, former Commissioner, Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ), Dr. Messan

Mawugbe, Executive Director, Centre for African Elections Media Monitoring Index (CAEMMI), Ms. Daphne Lariba Nabila, Acting Executive Director, Legal Resources Centre (LRC) and Mr. Bright Blewu, Executive Secretary, Ghana Journalists Association, (GJA) and members of the coalition.

Main Findings

In the first two months of monitoring, the coalition presents in this first report various incidents of abuse of incumbency and electoral corruption. These incidents fall under three categories, the use of official public/state-supported or state-organised events for campaigning by the incumbent party, promoting of the incumbent party by state officials in their official capacity and vote buying.

These incidents were observed in the following regions and constituencies: Brong Ahafo Region in the Sunyani West Constituency, Volta Region, in the Avenor-Ave Constituency, Western Region, in the Ellembelle Constituency, Central Region, in the Cape Coast Constituency and Eastern Region, in the Abuakwa North Constituency.

Abuse of incumbency

Use of official public/state-supported or state-organized events for campaigning by the incumbent party:

On May 2, 2012 at Sunyani in the Brong Ahafo region, our observer reported that the Policy Fair, which is a state-sponsored event intended to showcase government policies and programmes, was turned into an NDC campaign programme. At the policy fair, the Regional Minister, who is acting as the DCE for Sunyani West Municipal Assembly and also the NDC parliamentary candidate for the same Constituency, Hon. Kwadwo Nyamekye-Marfo, the

contd. on page 4

First report on monitoring abuse of incumbency Project in Ghana's 2012 elections launched

Minister of Information, Hon. Fritz Baffour and other speakers at the event elaborated on the achievements of the ruling NDC highlighting infrastructural development. These achievements were also showcased pictorially at the stands of the District/Municipal Assemblies in the region. The Regional Minister and the Minister of Information then asked the audience to vote for NDC in the up-coming elections.

On the 9th of May 2012 at Akatsi in the Volta Region, our observer reported that the DCE Mr. Peter Nortsu-Kotoe, turned a state organised and sponsored program into a campaign event when he presented one thousand (1,000) dual desks to thirty-two (32) basic schools in the district. The event took place at District Assembly premises at 9:00am and was attended by School heads of beneficiary schools, the public, and constituency representatives of NDC. The DCE, in his address to the recipients and the gathering, acknowledged that the dual desks were procured by the GETFund, and also indicated that it was part of the "Better Ghana Agenda."

He then proceeded to encourage the recipients and gathering to re-elect the NDC party into power, specifically, he stated that, "this shows that the NDC deserves a second term." The NADMO Coordinator, Mr. Sammy Vordi, NDC constituency Chairman, Mr. Wemegah, the NDC Constituency Secretary, Mr. Dagba Daniel and the District Director of Education's Representative Mr. T. N. K. Odikro, were present at the ceremony.

Also on the 27th of May, 2012 at exactly 4:00 pm, our observer reported that at Bomoakpole, a community in

Ellembelle Constituency, the Hon. Member of Parliament for Ellembelle Constituency and Deputy Minister of Energy, Hon. Emmanuel Armah Kofi Buah turned a public event into an NDC campaign event. The Hon. Deputy Minister was at the event to commission a community shed he had built for the Bomoakpole community with his share of the Common Fund. In his speech to the gathering, the MP highlighted the achievements he has chalked and that of his party for the past three (3) years in the constituency. He promised to build a JHS classroom block in 2013 for the community if they vote for him to retain power. The NDC Western Regional propaganda secretary said that "...it will be a huge mistake on the part of you if the NDC does not get 100% vote from this community." The venue was also decorated with NDC party flags and most of the NDC supporters were in their party T-shirts. Also, present at the event were Daniel K. Eshun (DCE), Dominic Nyanzu (Presiding Member), NDC Western Region propaganda secretary, constituency Chairman, vice chairman, constituency youth organizer, etc.

Use of public (state or local) vehicles free of charge or at discount rates for campaigning for or on behalf of an incumbent party.

In Avenor in the Volta region, our observer reported that, at the 20th anniversary celebration of the NDC held on Wednesday 13th May 2012 in the Avenor-Ave constituency of the Volta region, a pick-up vehicle belonging to the District Mutual Health Insurance was seen carrying supporters of the NDC clad in party colours and pieces of furniture to the anniversary grounds, at the forecourt of the Akatsi District Library.

Electoral Corruption

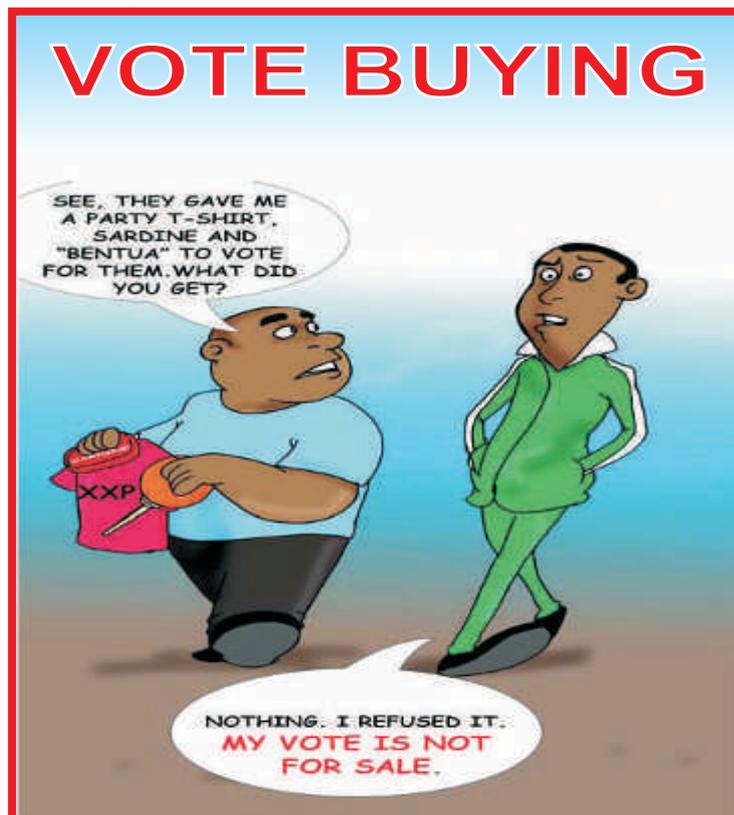
Vote buying:

Our observer in the Abuakwa North Constituency reported that Ambassador Victor Smith, an aspiring MP for the Abuakwa North constituency in the Eastern Region and currently Eastern Regional Minister, has donated DSTV dishes, to senior high schools in the constituency as well as to some youth in Kukurantumi – the constituency capital. The former Ambassador has also donated motorbikes with his initials written on them to some people in/around the constituency with the intention of soliciting votes in the upcoming elections.

Unregistered motorbikes distributed by Mr. J.B Danquah:

The observer also observed that, the aspiring NPP MP, Mr. J.B Danquah for the Abuakwa North constituency in the Eastern Region has also renovated the old Tafo Presbyterian church. He has specifically tiled the floor and replaced the louvre blades. He has also distributed unregistered motorbikes to some people in his constituency. These kinds of gifts to citizens and groups in an election year could serve as a corrupting influence on voters and undermine the fairness, freeness and integrity of elections and their outcomes.

contd. on page 5



First report on monitoring abuse of incumbency Project in Ghana's 2012 elections launched

Fair and Equal Access to State Media Resources

The Constitution in Article 55 (11) enjoins the state media to "Provide fair opportunity to all political parties to present their programs to the public by ensuring equal access to the state-owned media" for all political parties and the same amount of time and space for all presidential candidates to present their programs to the people.

The main findings from the media observations cover the period, May 1 to mid June, 2012.

Generally, the allocation of news time to parties and political parties appear to correlate with the frequency of events carried out by the political parties and presidential aspirants during the monitoring period.

News Allocation

Overall, the monitoring of news allocation to political parties for the month of May, and June 2012 by the Daily Graphic, the Ghanaian Times, the Spectator and Ghana Television (GTV) revealed that, the ruling party, the National Democratic Congress (NDC) in terms of news distributions received the highest total allocation of 41.6% in May and 42.3% in June respectively.

The New Patriotic Party (NPP), the largest opposition party was allotted a news frequency slot of 26% in May and 23% in June.

The Progressive Peoples Party (PPP), a new entrant into the political scene received a 10.6% share in May and 9.6% in June with the Convention Peoples Party (CPP) getting a 13% of news slots in May and 7.6% in June, 2012.

The Spectator newspaper gave the ruling party 60% news share of slots in May and 50% share in June with 40% going to the NPP in May and 33% in June. The PPP was also featured in Spectator's coverage in June with 17%.

The Daily Graphic newspaper in May gave 49% to the NDC and 21% to the NPP and shared the rest of the slots among the PPP, CPP, PNC, GCPP and IPP with a total score of 9.5%, 12.6%, 4.7%, 1.5% and 1.5%, respectively, in news coverage.

The GTV also gave the NDC a total of 31% news share and allotted the same total of 18% to the NPP and the PPP.

For the month of June, the trend of coverage by the GTV was similar to the month of May. Total news share given to the NDC was 27% while the NPP received 20%. The state-owned television also gave a total of 13% to the CPP and a total of equal share of 6.6% each to the PPP and PNC.

The Ghanaian Times allotted to the NPP the highest news share of 48% and the NDC with 36% news share in May. The Ghanaian Times also gave the CPP 12% and the PPP 4% total news share for the same month.

It appears that the trend of coverage was largely driven by the activities of the different political parties during the period of observation.

Space Allocation and News Air Time

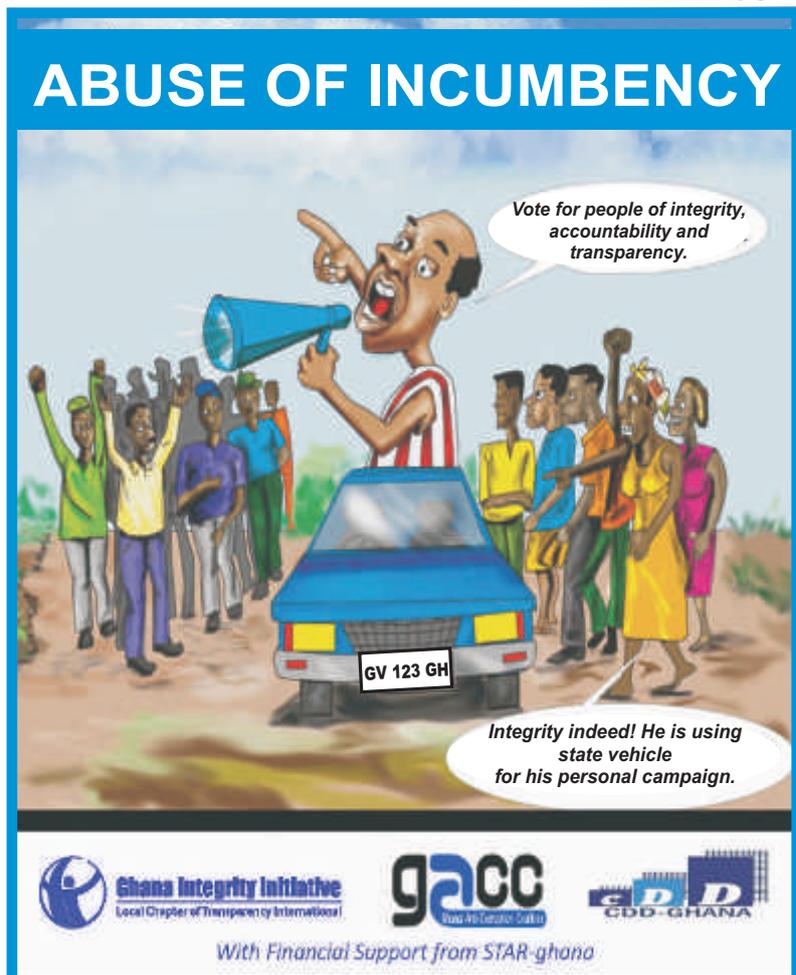
Overall, the data available as at June 2012 reveals unequal access to state media resources for political parties. The incumbent ruling party again received the highest attention in terms of news space allocation and news airtime by the Daily Graphic, The Ghanaian Times, The Spectator and Ghana Television.

The party recorded a total of 42.6% media print space and 47% Air time with an overall total, 10,975.3 CM² and 102 minutes and 2 seconds.

The NPP received 24.2% print space and 2.4% air time with an overall total of 6,238.08 CM² and 5min.3 seconds.

The NDC, for example, received the highest news space allocation with a total of 40.5% over the period of May, 2012. It, however, lost the highest position in terms of news airtime to the PPP, as the party recorded 29% higher than the

contd. on page 6



First report on monitoring abuse of incumbency Project in Ghana's 2012 elections launched

NDC which recorded a total news air time score of 15% for the month of May, 2012.

The PPP recorded a total of 11% news space and a total of 29% air time whereas the NPP recorded a total of 27.6% news space and a total of 21% news air time in May, 2012.

The Spectator newspaper gave a total news space of 69% to the NDC and a total of 31% to the NPP in the month of May, 2012.

The Daily Graphic newspaper gave a total of 43% to NDC and 21% to the NPP in the month of May, 2012. PPP recorded 15% and CPP recorded a space allotment of 10%. The newspaper also gave an equal share of 3% to the UFP and DFP for the month and a total of 5% to the PNC.

The Ghanaian Times newspaper allotted the highest news slot to the NPP which chalked a total of 42%. The NDC came second with a score of 36%.

Coverage of Presidential Candidates

The NPP Flag-bearer Nana Addo Danquah Akuffo Addo recorded the highest news share of 51% in the month of May, 2012 followed by Dr. Paa Kwesi Nduom with 22%, The then NDC Presidential candidate and Party Flag bearer, Professor Evans Atta Mills recorded a total of 6% and Dr. Abu Sakara recorded a total of 16% total news share.

In relation to space allotment to Party Flag Bearers, the trends of news space share were different. Interestingly, while the NPP Flag Bearer had the highest share in terms of story coverage in May, the party received a total of 16% space share compared to the CPP Presidential Candidate, Dr. Abu Sakara, who had the highest space of 49% but recorded as low as 16% news story share.

Findings on air time allotment also revealed that GTV allotted equal air time of 49% to the NPP's Nana Addo and PPP's Dr. Nduom.

In June, our data showed that the NPP Flag bearer recorded a total of 49% overall news share from the State – owned media while the PPP's Dr. Nduom recorded 26%, CPP's Dr. Abu Sakara -16% and NDC's Prof. Atta Mills, 5%.

On space allotment, the CPP's Flag bearer, Dr. Abu Sakara recorded the highest space of 49%, the NDC's Prof. Atta Mills recorded 22%, Nana Addo Danquah Akuffo Addo was given a total space of 16% while the CPP's Dr. Kwesi Nduom also had a total of 13%.

In terms of air time, Ghana Television (GTV) gave an equal share of 49% to Nana Akuffo Addo and Dr. Kwesi Nduom in June 2012.

Recommendations

• The abuse of incumbency and electoral corruption erodes the legitimacy of government and political leadership. Politicians and candidates must, therefore, take the issue seriously as it undermines free and fair competition for political power. It is, therefore, the intention of this report to draw the attention of the public to these abuses of incumbency and electoral corruption and to call on all stakeholders to put a stop to it.

• There appears to be some misunderstanding around the use of the MP's Common Fund. The MP's Common Fund is a public resource provided by Ghanaian taxpayers for use by MPs through and with the oversight of the District Assembly. Projects implemented with public money should not and cannot be presented as a partisan benefit. We, therefore, call on all Metropolitan/Municipal/District Assemblies and their chief executives to ensure that Common Fund projects are not hijacked for partisan gain. They should not be portrayed as personal donations by the MPs. Proper attribution should be made.

• The Coalition has been monitoring other subtle forms of abuse, particularly in the use of billboards mounted by Assemblies. The Coalition calls on the Assemblies to desist from using Assembly resources in subtle ways to abuse incumbency by mounting billboards of government officials who are incidentally standing for re-election. This subtle abuse of incumbency has been used several times in Ghana's political history. For instance, one can recall the 'now and then' campaign of the NPP and the bitter complaints of incumbency abuse that came from other parties about it.

• The Coalition also wants to draw attention to the growing practice of making high value gifts to individuals such as religious and traditional leaders and some youths and youth groups during this election year. This is viewed as 'vote buying' and impacts negatively on the integrity of elections and the legitimacy of government. These are instances that are reminiscent of the Acheampong UNIGOV days when Peugeot 504s were distributed to traditional rulers in exchange for pledges of support for the UNIGOV idea ahead of that referendum. The Coalition draws the attention of the politicians to this practice of increasingly influencing money and materialism in our elections as it is a threat to the foundation of our young democracy and the legitimacy of government. We call on them to put a stop to it.

Lastly, the Coalition commends the State media for its efforts in meeting the constitutional requirements for equal and same access to the media for political parties and presidential candidates, respectively, as demonstrated in the current report.

• Lastly, the Coalition commends the State media for its efforts in meeting the constitutional requirements for equal and same access to the media for political parties and presidential candidates, respectively, as demonstrated in the current report.

Senior police officers admit extortion culture in Police Service

Some senior police officers claim that extortion of monies from police recruits is an endemic culture in the Ghana Police Service, which is difficult to deal with.

They, therefore, wondered what would be the outcome of the investigations ordered by the police administration into reports of alleged extortion of monies from recruits at the Kumasi Police Training School recently.

Speaking in Kumasi on condition of anonymity, the officers said they also suffered from similar extortion from police instructors and other personnel when they were being recruited into the service many years ago.

Their comments came on the heels of a report that investigations into alleged extortion of money from recruits at the Kumasi Police Training School had been completed.

The report on the investigation, led by Assistant Commissioner of Police, Mr Barimah Acheampong, has been handed over to the Police Administration for action.

“Some of our men learn the practice of extortion from police training school and since no one complains, it has been taken as a norm.”

The senior police officers contend that the report of the investigations would not yield any fruitful results, explaining that extortion of monies from recruits had been going on from one generation to another.

“I was made to pay similar amount of money when I was being recruited, so there is no way anyone can stop this practice,” one of the officers said.

They said it was such practice of extortion which was carried onto the field of operation after the recruits had finally passed out.

“Some of our men learn the practice of extortion from police training school and since no one complains, it has been taken as a norm,” another alleged.

Commending the recruits in Kumasi for what he described as “a bold venture”, they said the time had come for the Police Administration to institute measures that would

Last May, some recruits at the Kumasi Police Training School accused three out of the 12 drilling officers of allegedly extorting monies from them.

According to the recruits, the three drill officers had since January, this year, been extorting GH¢10 from each of the 232 recruits every month and anyone who complained always incurred the wrath of the three officers.

The recruits claimed that those who refused to pay the monies were punished by the instructors. Following the allegations, the Police Administration set up the investigation team to probe the alleged extortion.

Meanwhile the recruits passed out from their training on Friday, June 15, 2012.

Their passing-out, which was scheduled for Friday, June 1, 2012, was suspended to enable the recruits to help in the investigation.

The passing-out, which, in the past, always received extensive media coverage, was carried out without any fanfare.



“It is a man’s own dishonesty, his crimes, his wickedness, and barefaced assurance, that takes away from him soundness of mind; these are the furies, these the flames and firebrands, of the wicked.”

- CICERO, Marcus Tullius- (106-143 B. C.) Roman Orator

GII Activities for the quarter (July-September, 2012)



Participants at the launch of the first report on Monitoring Abuse of Incumbency and Electoral Corruption held at the Coconut Grove Hotel on August 16th.



Seated from left: Mrs. Linda Ofori-Kwafo, Programmes Manager, Ghana Integrity Initiative (GII), Mr. Victor K. Brobbey of the CDD-Ghana, Vitus A. Azeem, Executive Director, GII, Rev. Dr. Fred Degbe, Chairman of the Christian Council of Ghana and Florence Dennis, Executive Secretary of the Ghana Anti-Corruption Coalition at the launch.

Executive Director of GII awarded with Global Excellence Award for Integrity in Leadership

The Executive Director of Ghana Integrity Initiative (GII), Mr. Vitus Adaboo Azeem, has been honoured with the Global Excellence Award for Integrity in Leadership at a colourful ceremony in Accra by the Global Leadership Training (GTL), based in the USA during the opening service of the '7th More than Conquerors Leadership Conference'.



Vitus Adaboo Azeem

Eighteen (18) other dignitaries and two institutions were also honoured for their various roles in ensuring integrity in leadership in the West African sub-region. The awardees were given citations and plaques in honour of their exceptional leadership skills in their field of activity.

A citation signed by the Founder and President of GTL, Rev. Gregg T. Johnson and the Executive Coordinator, Rev. David Arena, lauded Mr. Vitus Azeem for his commitment to integrity and for being esteemed by his peers as a leader of excellence.

Other awardees included Her Ladyship, Chief Justice Mrs. Georgina Theodora Wood, for her significant achievement and Dzifa Ativor, Deputy Minister for Transport, was also given a citation of appreciation.

Rev. Sam Korankye Ankrah, Rev. Dr. Fred Deegbe, Rev. Dr. Paul H. Dsane and Rev. Dr. Steve Asante were decorated

with the Global Award for Apostolic/Pastoral Excellence.

Media achievers including Abeiku Santana, John Ackom Asante and Sweet Melodies FM were awarded with Global Excellence for Media Leadership while the Global Excellence Awards for statesmanship went to Hon. Samuel Atta Kyea, Dr. Edward Mahama and Joseph Siaw Agyepong.

Others were Kwame Macafui, Global Excellence award for Missions, Felix Nyarko Pong, and Global Excellence Award for Exceptional Corporate Leaders, Rev. Victor Brew, William Dontoh Ministry Excellence Award and Unibank, Global Excellence Award for Best Corporate Leadership.

Lawyer Amegatcher was also honored with Global Excellence Award for Integrity in Leadership and Mrs. Akwafo, Jude Hama and Apostle Washington were presented with the Global Excellence Award for Christian service.

Rev. Sam Korankye Ankrah, who spoke at the function, urged people in leadership positions to uphold integrity in the position they have been placed. He said, "Service to mankind is the number one key that must be upheld by all."

Mr. Vitus Adaboo Azeem, on his part, issued a salient statement on behalf of the awardees which attracted a standing ovation from all present.

Following is the statement (back of page):

contd. on page 10

THOUGHTS OF GOLD

"No one who cannot master himself is worthy to rule, and only he can rule."

Johann Wolfgang von, **GOETHE** (1749-1832)- German Poet, Dramatist and Philosopher



Corruption. A crime in every language.

* You scratch my back, and I'll scratch yours (English) † a bribe (Spanish) ‡ pot of wine; a bribe (French) § to bribe (Arabic)
 ¶ to bribe (Chinese) ** Without oil, there's no driving (Russian) *** One hand washes the other (Italian) †† If you favour me,
 I'll favour you (Turkish) ††† Isn't there another way out? (Portuguese) †††† Pay us all you have got (Swahili)



www.unodc.org



A Citation On Behalf Of The Awardees Of The Global Leadership Training 2012

By: Vitus Adaboo Azeem, Awardee

TO: THE KINGS, THE PRESIDENTS, THE PRIME MINISTERS,
THE POLICE CHIEFS, THE CHIEF JUSTICES, THE BISHOPS AND ALL LEADERS!

We are aware that you are watching! We are aware that you are listening!

Even if you do not do anything about what you are seeing
Even if we ourselves cannot do anything about what we are saying
Even if you do not do anything about what you hear!
Even if we ourselves cannot do anything about what you hear!
We are aware that something wrong is happening?
God has given you power to use it.

USE IT!

Do not sleep on it; do not allow your brother or your sister to use it
Do not allow your party Chairman or your party Secretary to misuse it
God saw them and gave the power to you!

YOU MUST USE IT!

You have the duty to use it. Oh, no! Not use it for your selfish interest!
Oh No! Not to keep yourself in power! Not to keep your family in shameless riches.
God can just order that in a minute if He wanted to.
Yet, he has given the power to you.

USE IT AND USE IT WELL!

In your sleep, the prophets will continue to warn you!
You will pretend that you are dreaming?
But The Almighty God is telling you that he is not happy.
If people sleep on empty stomachs because you have taken more than you need!
If people die because you have stolen drugs they so much need to survive
If people languish in prisons because they cannot pay for justice!
How can God forgive you when you take what you do not deserve?
How can God forgive you when you trample on the rights of the poor in society?
How can God forgive you when you engage in corruption!
How can God forgive you when you abuse your power!
That is stealing! It is even worse than armed robbery!
Just that we do not have the power to fight in return.
But do you think you will have that power forever?

CORRUPTION KILLS! CORRUPTION WILL KILL!

YOU HAVE THE POWER TO STOP CORRUPTION! STOP IT!

THE PEOPLE ARE CRYING! MR. PRESIDENT, STOP CORRUPTION IN POLITICS!

THE PEOPLE ARE CRYING! YOUR LADYSHIP, STOP CORRUPTION IN THE JUDICIARY!

THE PEOPLE ARE CRYING! MADAM SPEAKER, ENACT THE LAWS TO STOP CORRUPTION!

MR. IGP, STOP THE CORRUPTION IN THE POLICE SERVICE

***“O that estates, degrees, and offices
were not derived corruptly, and that
clear honour were purchased by the
merit of the wearer.”***

Shakespeare

Women acquire aptitude on Tax matters

Women, particularly Association Heads in the informal sector have gained some knowledge on taxation and had their capacity built on how to keep basic accounts record and file tax returns.

This is in line with a project being implemented by Ghana Integrity Initiative (GII) and Institute for Democratic Governance (IDEG), in collaboration with Christian Aid Ghana under the Action for Local Employment Accountability and Resource Mobilisation (LEARN) project. The LEARN project seeks to support actions aimed at promoting an inclusive and empowered Ghana mainly in the area of tax and employment.

This project activity, Tax sensitization and Economic Literacy Workshop, is an offshoot of an earlier research, Tax & Gender, undertaken by GII. This project brought to the fore, some challenges that both the tax payers and tax officials undergo in the process of tax collection.

The findings of the Tax & Gender provide that 75% of the women surveyed say they are never asked to show records of their accounts. Only 40% of those surveyed say they keep any record of their accounts, and the majority of those responses came from women with secondary or higher levels of education.

The importance of keeping records in business cannot be over-emphasised since that is the basis upon which taxes are calculated. In many instances where records are not kept, there is a high probability that more payments than necessary are made by the tax payer since the tax rates are conjectured without any sound account record to based on.

In taxation also, tax payers have to file tax returns as a condition precedent to their accessing tax reliefs, obtaining tax clearance certificates and other benefits. However, the Tax & Gender study showed that 75% of the women in the informal sector do not keep account records, therefore, cannot access the relief and other tax benefits.

In addition, women also feel that the tax laws are complex for their understanding.

Given the above findings, the partners, to wit, GII, IDEG and Christian Aid Ghana found it prudent to assist, particularly women in the small and medium enterprises in tax education and record keeping.

The Economic Literacy Training Workshops, held in June 2012, targeted 120 women and youth entrepreneurs in 18 districts and was facilitated by GII, Ghana Revenue Authority and National Board for Small Scale Industries (NBSSI). The 2-day workshop was held in four zones (Tamale, Kumasi, Ho and Takoradi).

Participants were led through discussions on tax and development, book keeping, filing of tax returns, SMEs and Tax and Tax reliefs among others

The expected outcome was to empower the women and youth groups with the requisite knowledge on taxation to enable them effectively contribute to the economic growth of the country by sharing information with other women groups on taxation and its allied benefits. It is also to strengthen key vulnerable groups to better engage with the need for payment of taxes and provide the skills and training to youth and women to enhance the growth of their enterprises.



A participant at the training making a contribution as her colleague looks on.

MONEY QUOTES

“To possess money is very well; it may be a most valuable servant; to be possessed by it, is to be possessed by a devil, and one of the meanest and worst kind of devils.”

- Tryon Edwards (1809-1894-American Theologian and Editor

CORRUPTION ISSUES IN AFRICA AND AROUND THE GLOBE



IS CORRUPTION SEXIST?

Corruption hits women hardest!

BOTSWANA

As the main users of services such as schools and health facilities, corruption in this area affects women to a greater extent. In fact, more women (60 percent) than men (52 percent) thought there had been an increase in corruption levels in public institutions over the past three years according to Transparency International's Global Corruption Barometer.

67 percent of female pupils had been sexually harassed at school in Botswana, with 10 percent consenting to sex for fear of reprisals, according to UNESCO.

Good grades are offered by teachers in return for sexual favours. Schools often expel pregnant students rather than firing staff. This sexual extortion is a good example of gender-based corruption.

EGYPT, TUNISIA etc.

Catalysts for change

During the Arab Spring women stood shoulder to shoulder with men in protest at corrupt regimes.

Giving women a voice is an important step towards a fairer society. Any successful anti-corruption measures must include women: those that do not speak for both sexes are doomed to failure. Anti-corruption measures must engage the vulnerable if they are to have an impact. Women, often living in male-dominated societies, are a huge part of this vulnerable group.

UGANDA, ZAMBIA, BOLIVIA, INDIA

Towards a fairer society

A role in politics

Problem: In many countries, women and other vulnerable groups struggle to engage with politics and to get their voices heard on issues of corruption and how governments operate.

Our development pacts are publicly signed agreements, negotiated between public officials and groups of citizens to whom they are accountable, including women's groups. Officials commit to behave with integrity, and groups commit to actively monitor them. So far, women in Uganda, Zambia, Bolivia and India have been able to positively engage with public office holders through implementation of this tool by our chapters.

contd. on page 13

CAMEROON, SENEGAL, MALI, MADAGASCAR

contd. from page 12

Free legal advice, tailored for women

Problem: Women are marginalised and unaware of their rights and existing anti-corruption legislation.

Some of our chapters run Advocacy and Legal Advice Centres which empower citizens in the fight against corruption by providing free and confidential legal advice. The legal centres in Cameroon, Senegal, Niger and Madagascar run special sessions that are targeted specifically at vulnerable groups – including women – who might otherwise find it difficult to benefit from these centres.

ZIMBABWE

Forced to give birth in silence: corruption in Zimbabwe

Corruption starves public services of funds. Our chapter heard that nurses in a local hospital were charging women US \$5 every time that they screamed while giving birth. Those who couldn't pay had to get family members to help them escape, and some were hassled by debt collectors afterwards. TI Zimbabwe met with the deputy prime minister, who called for an investigation into maternal health issues as part of a broader health review. TI Zimbabwe now raises awareness and trains people to act in similar situations. The chapter has not heard of the same problem occurring since.

LATIN AMERICA

Financial Support Where It's Needed

Problem: Money that is supposed to help those in need, often women and children, never reaches them because of corruption in the system.

Conditional cash transfers give money directly to households on the condition that they fulfil certain criteria for sustainable development, for example sending their children to school or getting regular health check-ups. In Latin America, our chapters work to ensure that this money is not touched by corruption and gets directly to the people who need it most – beneficiaries are usually women and girls.

BANGLADESH, KENYA

Strong gender policies

Problem: Gender inequalities are likely to persist and are sometimes even reinforced if gender is not considered during the planning and implementation of anti-corruption initiatives.

TI Bangladesh has developed a gender policy which aims to enable the chapter to promote gender equality in every aspect of its activities. TI Kenya is incorporating gender assessments at all stages of its citizen demand programme.

MEXICO

Access for all to the information that matters

Problem: Access to Information laws are supposed to enable citizens to keep their governments and public bodies accountable. But often only a small male elite knows how to actually use the laws to access relevant information.

In Veracruz, Mexico, Proyecto Comunidades explained the process and made it easier for marginalised communities to access information. Women learned of health and housing benefits they were entitled to and how to receive them.

contd. on page 14

Resources

Gender-based corruption remains a relatively under-researched area, and is excluded from international legal instruments tackling corruption such as the United Nations Convention against Corruption.

Source: Transparency International

Lessons for Ghana

Whoever thought that men and women experienced corruption equally? How many women demand sex from men in return for jobs. How many men send their children to school and hospitals and face harsh treatment from doctors and nurses, including demands for money? Let us give this a thought and demand remedial actions.

GHANA

Ghana Police Investigate Media Reports Extortion From Recruits

The Acting Director of Public Affairs of the Ghana Police Service, DSP Cephas Arthur says complaints against personnel of the service should be channelled through the appropriate quarters.

His comments follow media publications that some police officers are alleged to be extorting money from recruits.

Speaking to Radio Ghana, DSP Arthur said his outfit has received a report on investigations into the matter and the content will determine the next line of action.

For his part, the Executive Director of the Ghana Integrity Initiative, Vitus Azeem said the IGP should be commended and given the necessary support to fight corruption in the Police Service.

Meanwhile, the Western Regional Police Commander Ranford Moses Ninson has appealed to Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies to do more to support the police by way of logistics.

He said it would not be out of place to provide them with vehicles and fuel to enable them to effectively fight crime.

DCOP Ninson was speaking at a meeting with the Justice and Security sub-committee of the Bibiani-Anhwiaso-Bekwai District Assembly at Bibiani. He was in the area as part of a familiarization tour.

The Regional Commander identified illegal mining as one of the major security challenges and said police are determined to rein them in.

DCOP Ninson later addressed officers and men of the police service and reminded them to be alert, even-handed and maintain high standards of professionalism in the discharge of their duties.

Source: GBC Radio

Integrity Spotlight



"Give us the man of integrity, on whom we know we can thoroughly depend; who will stand firm when others fail"

Arthur P. Stanley (1815-1851), English Clergy, Dean of Westminster

Police recruitment fraud – three busted

Three members of a police recruitment syndicate were arrested at the Police Hospital where they had met to supervise the medical screening of 105 of their prospective recruits between 2:00am and 3:00am Saturday.

The three — Inspector Senyo Ameyaw, a laboratory technician at the Police Hospital; Faustina Kuma, a civilian employee at the Police Headquarters, and Sylvanus Kuma, a National Security Secretariat operative — were arrested at the Police Hospital where the 105 prospective recruits had gathered to undergo the medical screening as part of the recruitment process.

The prospective recruits were also arrested to assist in investigations.

So far, GH¢81,275 has been retrieved from Faustina and Inspector Ameyaw. A number of laboratory test request forms for “Special Examination” have also been retrieved.

The operation was ordered by the Inspector-General of Police (IGP), Mr Paul Tawiah Quaye, after he had received information that prospective recruits were being charged between GH¢1,000 and GH¢2,500.

All the suspects are currently in various police cells pending further investigations.

The Commissioner of Police (COP) in charge of the Criminal Investigations Department (CID) of the Ghana Police Service, Mr Prosper Agblor, told graphic.com.gh that the IGP received information from sections of the public that a syndicate was recruiting young men and women into the Police Service for a fee of between GH¢1,000 and GH¢2,500.

He said the information also indicated that the prospective recruits were often taken to the Police Hospital at midnight for medical screening.

Mr Agblor said the Police Intelligence and Professional Standards Bureau (PIPS) was notified to conduct discreet investigations to establish the existence of the syndicate and help apprehend the suspects.

According to him, after several weeks of underground investigations, the PIPS had a tip off that the next batch of recruits was due for medical screening at the Police Hospital at midnight on Saturday, June 16, 2012.

He said with the help of other police personnel, the 105 prospective recruits who turned up for the medical examination and the three main suspects were rounded up about 2:30 a.m.

Mr Agblor wondered how any medical examination would be conducted under the cover of darkness if, indeed, it was a genuine exercise.

He said investigations were still ongoing and gave an assurance that anyone found culpable would be dealt with according to the laws of the land.

SOUTH AFRICA

Kaizer Chiefs’ boss Bobby Motaung faces corruption charges

Kaizer Chiefs’ general manager Bobby Motaung has been arrested on allegations of fraud and forgery, along with two other men.

The charges relate to the building of a 2010 World Cup stadium in South Africa.

Kaizer Chiefs, the 11-time South African champions, said Motaung appeared in court Thursday in the northern city of Nelspruit alongside businessman Herbert Theledi.

A third man was in custody in Cape Town and will be transferred to Nelspruit.

McIntosh Polela, spokesman for South Africa's economic and organized crime unit, said the men are accused of using a forged tax document in winning a \$17m contract to help build the Mbombela Stadium.

The stadium cost a total of \$145m and hosted four games at the World Cup.

Motaung is the son of Kaizer Chiefs’ chairman and founder Kaizer Motaung.

J E A Mills



Joining the ancestral paths to the ancient 'Nsamanpow'

Our Tuesday was shattered into ungatherable smithereens

Hearts of men and women dropping tears as fast as withered trees

New tears adding to clouds more clouds than the heavens could bear

Events of time will tell your tale to the yet unborn

Vanguard of the nation, suddenly lost in the shadows of men

Among the living, a count counts not you from this day on

Never again to be seen nor heard in the times and days from here on

Sad moments fill every heart as you fell on the battle field of the great

Falling among the giants in the circles of the godly

Indeed your manner presents you as not just holy but jolly

Inciting comic gestures in your beatitudes, you endeared yourself to the multitude

From matters of the economy to the drafters of alimony

Infecting people with cheers and jeers in the moments just transpired

Attaining high grounds at a tender age of twenty seven

Touching many lives till you fell at thirty seven

Token of your life we take as a gift

Awarded by God your God as our wish

Mind and thought cannot fathom your passing

Infant brains rake and break to find meaning

Longing to the day we undress our red and black

Longing for you to find a resting place

Sitting among the triumphant with our Lord your Lord on the holy dais

Nananonymous 31.07.12