



TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL
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Corruption is a source of violation of Human Rights and generates poverty and under development.

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MAKING THE
BULLETIN

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SPEAKING OUT AGAINST CORRUPTION

Corruption has been discovered as one of the key actors in perpetuating poverty and as such it continues to be the key reason for the lack of significant progress in poverty reduction in spite of the growing amount of financial resources invested into such efforts in recent years. Corruption directly impacts on the access of disadvantaged groups to livelihood resources and basic social services such as education and health. It leads to the marginalization of disadvantaged groups from public decision making.

This situation is evident in Sierra Leone, a country rich in mineral and marine resources, but ranked as one of the poorest countries according to the UNDP Human Development Index of 2007. Some of the major causes of poverty in Sierra Leone are the prevalence of all forms of corruption, bad governance and the high level of illiteracy in the country. Corruption contributes significantly to the state of economic bankruptcy in the country.

Previous governments have all sought to plunder the state coffers, enriching themselves and their clans rather than striving to provide the urgent needs of the country. Corruption has become the order of the day and the cancer that destroys the fabrics of the society. Unless corruption is seriously combated, Sierra Leone's future will be plagued by misery, underdevelopment and extreme poverty, which in turn may have serious consequences on the stability within the country.

The potential of little girls and boys in Sierra Leone may never be realized if corruption is to take a front seat on our governance structure. If public servants deplete government revenues by "misusing" or "misappropriating" funds/resources, our national income will continue to be significantly reduced, foreign investments discouraged, sustainable national development and infrastructural projects will seriously be compromised with no completion. It is against this backdrop that efforts have been made by governments past and present to curb corruption.

In 2000 the first Anti-Corruption law was instituted. This law made provision for the establishment of the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) charged with the

responsibility of leading the fight against corruption. Under this law the ACC did not make any significant strides towards fulfilling its mandate of curbing corruption. Very few public officials were arrested and prosecuted for corrupt practices. This was the case because the ACC had no powers by law to prosecute corrupt individuals, and the corrupt offences captured in this law were very few. In 2008 however, the Anti-Corruption Act was reviewed, giving the ACC the powers to prosecute, and more doubled the corruption offences. This revised law dramatically changed the anti-corruption landscape. More public officials have been arrested and prosecuted for corruption related activities.

Irrespective of this leap, there is still much to be desired in the fight against corruption. The 2012 Transparency International's Corruption Barometer ranked Sierra Leone as the most corrupt country in relation to bribery and in 2013, the corruption increased, though Sierra Leone's rank was a bit high, but this meant that other countries were more corrupt in that year. In view of this, more needs to be done on public education to change the mind-set and perception of citizens with regards corruption. Citizens must be willing and ready to stand up and speak out loudly against corruption. *Cont. page 6*

An Acrostic of Corruption

Come to me and experience wealth
Openness and accountability I dislike
Resources of the state I plunder
Riches and prosperity I offer you
Utimize this opportunity and become rich
People have prospered because of me
To hell with those that want to destroy me
Immortal is what I am
Openly I challenge my detractors
Now is your time to embrace me and become rich

EDITORIAL

AN OVERVIEW OF CORRUPTION IN 2013

In retrospect, the year 2013 has been a challenging year for the fight against corruption and lack of accountability and transparency in Sierra Leone. In 2013, the country experienced several incidences of high level alleged corruption cases. Examples are the alleged embezzlement of the Gavi Alliance Grant and also the alleged corruption syndicate involving staff of the National Revenue Authority and ECO Bank Sierra Leone. The NRA and ECO Bank Sierra Leone's corruption case still ongoing which is rather frustrating as these are crucial cases that the Anti-Corruption Commission is suppose to be winning.

Another challenging issue in the fight against corruption in Sierra Leone is the ACC's continued loss of their cases of corruption brought to court. One would be forced to ask why such is happening. One would blame the judges for acquitting these corrupt officials of their crimes, or is it that the ACC do not have enough evidence to prosecute these people or they do not provide good evidence to send these corrupt officials to jail for good! A critical question that requires a serious attention if there should be any measurable positive impacts in the country's quest to curb corruption.

What is more dazzling is the aura of pessimism that runs through the citizens' minds in the fight against corruption! Many are of the view the fight is insurmountable. Reasons range from salary scale, injustice and the politicization of this vile phenomenon. But these reasons, valid they may be, they do not justify corruption in anyway; otherwise, well paid professionals in the NRA or NASSIT wouldn't have been mired in corruption scandal. TISL believes that the fight against corruption hinges on integrity, patriotism and activism to a very large extent. The people must be willing and hold state actors into task. There should be a well orientated and sensitized public on the ills of corruption. The fence of defence against corruption must be constructed in the people's minds.

Positively, the country witnessed an increase in stakeholder's (private, public and citizens) involvement in discussing and coming out with possible ways of addressing corruption issues in the country. What may also be positive is Sierra Leone going a little bit top of the Corruption Perception Index as oppose to the horrible one in 2012.

In the midst of all these positive developments in the fight against corruption, there is much more to be de-

sired if the country is to succeed in this fight. In view of this, TI-SL firmly believes that three key possibilities exist to effectively tackle corruption in Sierra Leone: These are Self Realization and Commitment to change, Stringent Punitive Measures and Effective Law Enforcement. These can be achieved through a conscious awareness and commitment to change by those in positions of trust to perform their tasks with integrity, professionalism and a vision focused on integrity and effective national development.

Also, the effective enforcement of laws and stringent sanctions/punishment without fear or favour can aid greatly in the fight against corruption. These sanctions/punishments should encompass a combination of a fine far exceeding the total amount embezzled or, misappropriated, incarceration or jail term of not less than five years and the seizure of all valuable assets. TI-SL strongly believes the latter is a more effective deterrent of corruption.

It is also worthy to note that TI-SL continues to urge the following stakeholders to continue to take necessary actions if corruption issues are to be effectively addressed in the country, and to improve our national development efforts and our status in corruption perception indexes.

- The government should continue to take proactive steps to improve the mechanisms for transparency and accountability in resource mobilization and utilization and particularly curb corruption especially bribery within MDAs
- Public officials responsible for the provision of goods and services should execute their mandate with integrity, accountability and professionalism.
- The institutions charged with the mandate to address such malpractices to be more proactive and bring to book/punish all found guilty of such practices.
- All Sierra Leoneans in general to inculcate attitudes and behaviours that are compatible for sustainable growth and development.

It is the responsibility of all citizens to contribute to the fight against corruption in Sierra Leone.



SPEAKING OUT AGAINST CORRUPTION

Cont. from page 2

The people's willingness to report corruption is also key in the fight because the ACC only leads the fight and cannot be everywhere at the same time. However, one will be tempted to ask the question; to what degree can the ACC ensure the protection of corruption whistleblowers? A small portion of the Anti-Corruption Act 2008 talks about whistleblower protection, but this is not adequate enough to fully ensure the protection of whistleblowers. There have been cases of individuals who have lost their jobs or being intimidated and threatened by their employers or family members of corrupt individuals for exposing corrupt individuals. As exposing corruption can also be life threatening, many people shy away from raising the red flag or blowing the whistle on individuals engaged in corrupt practices.

This has over the years undermined and still continues to undermine the fight against corruption. The existence of a "**Whistleblower Protection Law**" with adequate provisions on processes and procedures to ensure the protection of whistleblowers, will give citizens the confidence and zest to stand up and speak out loudly against corruption because they know that they have the full protection of the law.





OPPORTUNITIES

Social Entrepreneurs Initiative for West Africa

Project Overview

Transparency International, in collaboration with the Open Society Institute for West Africa (OSIWA), is launching a [Social Entrepreneurs Initiative \(SEI\) for West Africa](#). The initiative aims to support innovative ideas from young people to boost transparency, accountability and the fight against corruption in their communities.

As today's citizens and tomorrow's leaders, young people have the potential to make a difference by creating a world free of corruption. Transparency International places a strong emphasis on promoting youth integrity, as the fight against corruption begins with instilling strong values and honesty in young people. The Social Entrepreneurs Initiative invites young people aged 18 to 35 from West Africa to take part in a Regional Competition on 'Promoting Integrity in the Education Sector'.

Participants should submit proposals for projects that offer an innovative approach to promoting integrity in the education sector. Specifically, the competition invites proposals that address some of the challenges highlighted in [TI's 2013 Global Corruption Report: Education](#). The report explores the many facets of corruption in education, such as fake diplomas, buying of grades, and shadow education, and highlights ways it is being challenged.

The competition provides a platform for young entrepreneurs who aspire to create positive change in their communities. With their innovative ideas and leadership, young people can help tackle some of the key challenges of today and offer sustainable solutions for tomorrow.

Eligibility Criteria

- Participants between the ages of 18 and 35 can apply.
- Participants based in West Africa and from one of the following countries are eligible: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Cote d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, and Togo.
- The proposed projects must have direct impact in at least one of these countries.

Projects should reflect the themes of the Global Corruption Report: Education, and support [activities](#) that empower young people to develop change-maker skills such as [entrepreneurship](#), teamwork, and [leadership](#).

Applications must be in English, French or Portuguese.

Assessment: Entries will be evaluated and nominated based on the following criteria among other factors: Relevance of the project theme, Entrepreneurial Vision, Feasibility, Innovation, Impact, Sustainability

Prizes

- **Awards** – a total of three, each worth \$3000 cash. **The winners will be sponsored to participate in the International Anti-Corruption Conference to be held in Tunisia in October 2014**

Application Process

Step 1: Tell Your Story of Change

In about 500 words (or less), entrants should give an insight into who they are and why they are motivated to fight corruption. They can tell us about a personal experience or something that has changed or influenced their perspective.

Step 2: Sell Your Project

Entrants are expected to write a short and compelling description of their project, what it is and how it will work.

Step 3: The Impact Map

In 5 steps, entrants should outline the foreseen impact of their project in the impact map. Each step has a specific aim: what is it the project wants to, how this will be achieved, and how the impact or expected outputs of the project will be measured. The Impact Map will serve as a tool to help monitor and evaluate the project implementation.

Step 4: The Budget

Entrants need to show how they plan to spend the grant, and how much the project will cost in total. This should be done by filling the Budget Template, listing the envisaged costs. In the grant column, entrants should indicate how much this specific grant would contribute towards the cost. In the Own Fund section, entrants have the opportunity to indicate if they already have funds to contribute to the core cost. Template fields under the expenditure type that are not applicable should be left blank. The Total Per Expenditure Type column should specify the entire cost of the item. The overall Project Total Field should specify the total cost of the project.

Additional Information

Without each of these documents successfully submitted, applications will not be valid. For any questions related to these documents, please email iacc@transparency.org.

Interested applicants with completed documents should contact Transparency International Sierra Leone for guidance on submission.

The application deadline is 10 March 2014.

Knowing About Corruption**THE ACC ACT OF 2008****PART IV - OFFENCES****Corrupt Acquisition of Wealth**

26. (1) A public officer commits an offence of corrupt acquisition of wealth if it is found, that he is in control or possession of any resources or property or in receipt of the benefit of any advantage which he may reasonably be suspected of having acquired or received corruptly or in circumstances which amount to an offence under this Act.

(2) Where during a trial of an offence under subsection (1), the Court is satisfied that there is reason to believe that any person is holding pecuniary resources or property in trust or otherwise on behalf of the accused person or acquired such resources or property as a gift from the accused, such resources or property shall, until the contrary is proved, be presumed to have been in the control of the accused.

(3) A person guilty of an offence under subsection (1) shall be liable on conviction be liable to a fine not less than thirty million leones or to imprisonment for a term not less than 3 years or to both such fine and imprisonment.

(4) In addition to any punishment prescribed by subsection (3), the Court shall, for an offence under subsection (1), order that twice the amount or value of the resources or property acquired or the advantage received by the person convicted be paid by him into the **Consolidated Fund**.

(5) Where, after making the orders prescribed in subsection (4), there is still some amount outstanding, the Court shall make a further order that any person holding any moneys on behalf of such person or gratuities, awards, pensions or similar entitlements due to such person, shall pay such moneys or entitlements to the **Accountant General**.

(6) Where, after applying subsections (4) and (5) there is still some outstanding amount to be paid by the person convicted, that amount shall be regarded as a debt due to the Government and the Commissioner may at any time bring a civil action in the Court or Magistrates' Court, as the case may be, to recover the amount concerned.

Possession of Unexplained Wealth

27 (1) Any person who, being or having been a public officer (a) maintains a standard of living above that which is commensurate with his present or past official emoluments; or (b) is in control of pecuniary resources or property disproportionate to his present or past official emoluments, unless he gives a satisfactory explanation to the court as to how he was able to maintain such a standard of living or how such pecuniary resources or property came under his control, commits an offence.

(2) Where the court is satisfied in proceedings for an offence under paragraph (b) of subsection (1) that, having regard to the closeness of his relationship to the accused and to other circumstances, there is reason to believe that any person was holding pecuniary resources or property in trust for or otherwise on behalf of the accused or acquired such resources or property as a gift from the accused, such resources or property shall, in the absence of evidence to the contrary, be presumed to have been in the control of the accused.

(3) A person guilty of an offence under subsection (1) shall on conviction be liable to a fine not less than thirty million leones or to imprisonment for a term not less than 3 years or to both such fine and imprisonment.

(4) In addition to any penalty imposed under subsection (3), the court may order a person convicted of an offence under paragraph (b) of subsection (1) to pay into the Consolidated Fund - (a) a sum not exceeding the amount of the pecuniary resources; or (b) a sum not exceeding the value of the property, the acquisition by him of which was not explained to the satisfaction of the Court.

(5) An order under subsection (4) may be enforced in the same manner as a judgment of the High Court in its civil jurisdiction.

(6) In this section, "official emoluments" includes a Act No. 5 of 2001 pension or gratuity payable under the National Social Security and Insurance Trust Act, 2001.

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**REPORT
CORRUPTION
NOW!**

QUOTE OF THE MONTH:

"When it comes to privacy and accountability, people always demand the former for themselves and the latter for everyone else".

By David Brin

INTERPRETATION OF THE ABOVE QUOTE

Sierra Leone as part of the world community of nations, and a democratic state should have everyone in the public and private sectors, the NGOs and the ordinary citizenry accountable to themselves. If there are no sacred cows, transparency and justice will prevail thus, having the key principles of democracy at work for a better Sierra Leone.

**DESIGNED AND EDITED
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