

**STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE
NATIONAL ANTI-CORRUPTION COMMISSION
AT THE PRESS BRIEFING ON THE NEW
COMMUNICATION TOOLS OF THE INSTITUTION**

Yaounde, 24 April, 2018

**The General Manager of the Telecommunications Regulatory Agency,
The General Manager of MTN Cameroon,
The General Manager of ORANGE Cameroon,
General Manager of VIETTEL,
Dear journalists,**

Let us first of all welcome you here at the Headquarters of the National Anti-Corruption Commission. We thank you sincerely for accepting to be invited to this important press briefing.

As you all know, our country has decisively committed itself to the fight against corruption; a phenomenon that has caused it so much harm. Some of the reasons for this fight are to make sure that all Cameroonians receive what they are due, and to ensure successful and proper execution of State projects.

This fight, which should be sustained till the end, is the responsibility of all of us. Note that prevention is one of the best strategies of this crusade. Prevention entails educating citizens on integrity and providing them good information, because bad practices sometimes thrive on ignorance of the law by the majority of actors.

In the fight against corruption, every citizen should be given the opportunity to systematically denounce all acts of corruption, instead of being silent or passive observers. We should remember that the United Nations Organization, through its Convention against corruption of October 31, 2003, strongly recommends easy access of all citizens to anti-corruption bodies, so as to freely denounce all acts relating of corruption.

Dear journalists, great men and women of national and international press organs,

It should be noted that the African Union declared 2018 the year of the fight against corruption. We also note the proven political will of the President of the Republic, who says that the fight against corruption will be intensified progressively. To this end, the National Anti-Corruption Commission is privileged to have acquired two new tools that will effectively enhance the fight against this social gangrene in our country.

Here, we are referring to a toll-free public utility number that is accessible to calls from all telephone operators with nation-wide network coverage. This

number is **1517**. The device thereon comprises two receiving terminals for possible simultaneous calls. The working hours of some CONAC services will be reorganized subsequently, to extend beyond the normal 8-hour administrative work.

We seize this opportunity to reiterate our gratitude to the General Manager of the Telecommunications Regulatory Agency who worked diligently to set up the number.

We also thank the General Managers of CAMTEL, MTN Cameroon, ORANGE Cameroon and VIETTEL Cameroon for the patriotic contributions their respective companies made towards guaranteeing free calls to **1517**.

We would not forget to thank and congratulate the press for its commitment to denounce corruption in all its forms, thereby contributing to the development of our country. You have certainly noticed that many CONAC investigations stem from your surveys and press articles extracted during our daily newspaper review.

**Ladies and gentlemen,
Dear journalists,**

The other tool is the CONAC website which is undergoing restoration to become more dynamic, interactive and attractive.

This month, we also started producing the “ESPACE CONAC ALERT” firmware, broadcast on CRTV thanks to the slots offered by the General Manager of this Institution whom we thank sincerely and deeply. The aims of these programmes are to inform the population of the dangers of corruption and to raise awareness of the socio-legal consequences and prevention means of this scourge.

The communication tools we just referred to will significantly enhance the Commissions’ daily anti-corruption efforts.

With the toll-free number, for example, any Cameroonian man and woman can denounce acts of corruption which they are victims or witnesses of without spending a franc for telephone credits and without making any effort of searching through their telephone directory for a number to call. It is short and easy to remember. **1517**.

These tools come to increase the number of already existing devices, which include, among others:

The “ESPACE CONAC” radio magazine, broadcast every Saturday on the CRTV national station;

The “ESPACE CONAC” television magazine, broadcast on CRTV and Canal 2;

The CONAC Newsletter, produced monthly and distributed throughout the national territory;

Sector-based caravans to reach out to Cameroonians in the hinterland.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Dear journalists,

Subsequent to the firm commitment of the President of the Republic, His Excellency Paul BIYA, to fight relentlessly against corruption, a commitment that was reaffirmed during the Cabinet Meeting of March 15, 2018, today, we are providing a weapon of self-defense to Cameroonians who are the final beneficiaries of the fallouts of this fight.

Similarly, the interactivity of the website will offer more possibilities for denunciation. Above all, it will help to inform journalists who will in turn inform all Cameroonians about the actions CONAC is carrying out as well as the necessary mobilization that will lead to the eradication of this evil from Cameroon.

This is possible if, through these awareness-raising actions, we reach a critical mass of positive actors ready to say **NO to corruption**.

We must bear in mind that denunciation with malicious intent is a crime. Beyond the fact that false testimony is a corruption offence, citizens must be careful not to distract those who have been commissioned to the fight for their good by avoiding to make fanciful calls just because it is a toll-free number. It will be profitable to make only necessary calls.

By calling just for pleasure, they misuse the human resources placed to serve them and therefore undermine the expected efficiency. If each of us considers the importance of this new impetus, fear will inevitably change sides and will be on the side of the corrupt. The time is now when you and we Cameroonian people should denounce the “tigers” and “flies” that make corruption thrive in our society.

**Ladies and gentlemen,
Dear journalists,**

This is what we wanted to share with you today for onward information of our compatriots.

Your telephone is now a weapon to fight corruption.

Call the toll-free hotline of CONAC to denounce any act of corruption.

Dial fifteen seventeen.

Your calls are free.

We thank you!