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REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON

Peace – Work – Fatherland

Presidency of the Republic

**National Anti-Corruption Commission
(NACC)**

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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL INTEGRITY EDUCATION PROGRAMME (PNEI)

OFFICIAL INSTALLATION CEREMONY OF MEMBERS OF INTEGRITY CLUBS IN UNIVERSITIES AND INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

**University of Buea
16 February, 2021**

**SPEECH BY THE CHAIRMAN OF CONAC
Rév. Dr. Dieudonné MASSI GAMS**

- **The Vice-Chancellor of the University of Buea,**
- **Dear lecturers,**
- **Distinguished members of Integrity Clubs,**
- **Dear invitees,**
- **Ladies and gentlemen,**

Today, we are very honoured to be on this University campus for the installation of **the Integrity Club**.

First of all, we would like to thank you for the warm reception and words of welcome expressed by the Vice-Chancellor.

We thank the Vice-Chancellor especially for ensuring the proper organization and smooth running of this ceremony.

Ladies and gentlemen, dear students,

Your presence at this ceremony testifies to your interest in CONAC's efforts to eradicate corruption in our country. We are very grateful.

In line with its constituting text, CONAC is an independent public body charged with contributing to the fight against corruption.

In that capacity, it is responsible for:

- “monitoring and evaluating the effective implementation of the governmental anti-corruption plan;
- gathering, centralizing and analyzing denunciations and information forwarded to it in respect of practices, deeds and facts and similar offences;
- conducting all studies or investigations and proposing any measures aimed at forestalling or curbing corruption;
- carrying out, where appropriate, on-the-spot controls of the execution of projects, as well as the evaluation of conditions of public contract award;
- disseminating and popularizing anti-corruption instruments;
- identifying the causes of corruption and proposing to the relevant authorities, measures likely to lead to its eradication from all public or semi-public services;

- performing any other duties assigned it by the President of the Republic”.

Ladies and gentlemen,

It should be noted that as part of its duties, CONAC must take measures to prevent acts and facts that could lead to corruption. That is the *raison-d'être* for this ceremony.

As part of its statutory mission to fight against corruption in Cameroon, CONAC intends to mobilize and encourage the involvement and integration of all actors, mainly young people from all walks of life, with a view to adopting and implementing Integrity Education and Citizenship.

To this end, CONAC drew up the **National Anti-Corruption Strategy** and the **National Integrity Education Programme**. The National Anti-Corruption Strategy, developed in 2010, provides an inventory of manifestations, causes, difficulties, favourable factors, challenges, preconditions, as well as actors, strategic and operational actions in the fight against corruption in 10 priority sectors including Education.

Statistics show that **the corruption trend in the education sector is 7.16/10**, that is, 6.4/10 for Basic Education, 7.5/10 for Secondary Education, 7.8/10 for Higher Education and 7.57/10 for Vocational Training. This leaves the Education sector with a very high level of corruption.

Some of the practices that tarnish the image of this sector are:

- bribery for recruitments, promotions, postings and appointments,
- bribery for marks,
- sexual harassment,
- sale of examination question papers,
- trafficking of fake certificates,
- falsification of transcripts,
- influence peddling,
- cheating,

- consumption of drugs and narcotics,
- extortion from candidates,
- diversion of school property.

For this reason, CONAC encourages all young Cameroonians to have the vision: "**Cameroon is a country where integrity is a core value for every citizen, where economic growth is driven by quality work and is fairly distributed to achieve social wellbeing in a healthy environment**".

With the support of academic institutions, we are convinced that this challenge can be met through the mobilisation, involvement and commitment of young people in the anti-corruption drive.

As a response to the decline and loss of moral values noted in our country, CONAC, in collaboration with the Ministries in charge of Education, has developed the National Integrity Education Programme (PNEI). The programme focuses mainly on young people and aims to help prevent and curb corruption in habits, practices and behaviours with a view to building an honest Cameroonian youth; that is to say, a youth that respects universal, traditional, republican, moral, ethical and fundamental values of life.

Dear students,

The Integrity Education Programme will prepare you for the proper management of public property, make each of you **an integrity watchdog**, in short, an honest, responsible and honest man and woman.

This is actually about moral, civic and ethical rehabilitation, a call for a change in behaviour.

This programme teaches attitudes and behaviour such as respect for public property, discipline, politeness, self-respect, elimination of deviant behaviour, acceptance of differences, dedication to quality work, industriousness, accountability, meritocracy, mutual love, mutual assistance, environmental preservation, tolerance and hospitality, love of one's country, justice, democracy, team spirit, solidarity, respect for other people's rights,

protection of the vulnerable, rejection of tribalism, fight against discrimination, stigmatisation, greed, juvenile delinquency, sexual harassment, drugs, sexual misconduct, early pregnancies, and protection against STDs and AIDS.

Therefore, we must remind you that corruption in the education sector impacts negatively on all other sectors of social life. An education system that fails to provide integrity education for its students is bound to produce citizens who are disinclined to respect public property.

Universities and other Higher Education Institutions whose entry requirements are not based on excellence and merit are nurseries for incompetent workers with the risks that this involves for key sectors of social life such as: administration, justice, health, economy, security, etc.

Ladies and gentlemen,

This ceremony also has a two-fold bearing:

- 1. It should be recalled that creating Integrity Clubs is recommended by both the Education Sector Strategy Paper and the National Integrity Education Programme;**
2. The ceremony also fulfils one of CONAC's main missions, which consists in **taking the institution closer to the people with a view to building a large group of positive actors** ready to fight the social cankerworm which is corruption.

Ladies and gentlemen, dear students,

We would like to underscore that the fight against corruption remains a permanent concern of the Head of State, H.E. Paul BIYA. For instance, during his special message during **the Cabinet Meeting of 12 September 2007**, the President of the Republic maintained this stance by decrying the ravages of this scourge in these terms (I quote): **"Corruption, to a large extent, jeopardizes our efforts. It distorts public morality. Everyone (...) must be committed to this fight within their fields of competence"**. End of quote.

On **16 September 2011**, President Paul BIYA confirmed this commitment in the following terms: ***“Concerning public morality, the institutional mechanisms have been put in place to combat corruption (...). CONAC has moved from the educational and sensitization to an operational phase. Be it known, Ladies and Gentlemen (...) that I am fully determined to eliminate this scourge and to step up the fight against corruption, without complacency, discrimination and irrespective of the social status or political leaning of those found guilty. Nobody will consider himself or herself to be above the law.”*** End of quote.

The Integrity Club which is officially launched today is a forum for consultation, information exchange and a platform to enable you to imbibe the principles and values of integrity.

Beyond being a mere social grouping, Integrity Clubs constitute a guarantee for young people to acquire ethical, moral and civic values. We challenge you to take the opportunity to acquire and develop the necessary knowledge, skills and competences that will make you tomorrow's leaders of integrity and true citizens that will be indispensable for the emergence of the country.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Dear Students,

Corruption is not inevitable. It can actually be eliminated. For this to happen, everyone at their own level must contribute actively by implementing concrete actions and collectively take the necessary step to reverse the trend in order to build a corruption-free Cameroon. Indeed, as we usually say: **“impossibility is not Cameroonian!”**.

On this note of hope, we declare installed the members of the Integrity Club of the University of Buea.

I thank you for your kind attention.