

REPUBLIQUE DU CAMEROUN

Paix – Travail – Patrie

Présidence de la République

**Commission Nationale Anti-Corruption
(CONAC)**

Tél.: 222 20 37 32/**1517**

Fax: 222 20 37 30

B.P: 33 200 Yaoundé



REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON

Peace – Work – Fatherland

Presidency of the Republic

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

URL : [http:// www.conac.cm](http://www.conac.cm)

Mailto : [:info@conac.cm](mailto:info@conac.cm)

**OPENING ADDRESS BY THE CHAIRMAN OF CONAC
AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE TO LAUNCH
THE NATIONWIDE CAMPAIGN DUBBED
“CORRUPTION-FREE 2021-2022 BACK TO SCHOOL”**

Rev. Dr Dieudonné MASSI GAMS

Douala, August 18, 2021

- The Governor of the Littoral Region,
- The Senior Divisional Officer for Wouri,
- Regional Delegates of the Education and Vocational Training Sector
- The Principal of the Government Bilingual High School, Deido
- Dear Press men and women
- Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, we would like to thank you sincerely for responding to our invitation to launch the "2021-2022 Corruption-Free Back to School" campaign. In accordance with Article 13 of CONAC's constitutive text, CONAC is required to carry out "**education and public awareness actions in the fight against corruption**".

The National Anti-Corruption Strategy, drawn up in 2010 and validated by the government and technical partners in 2011, outlined the manifestations, causes, difficulties, favourable factors, challenges, preconditions, actors, and strategic and operational actions to fight corruption in 10 priority sectors, including education.

The analysis showed that the intensity of corruption in the education sector was **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 means that corruption is also high in the education sector. The following practices are the main reasons for this situation, since they tend to spread and tarnish the sector's image:

- bribery for enrolment in schools, promotion, posting and appointment;
- bribery for marks;
- sexual harassment;
- selling of examination question papers;
- false certification;
- falsification and reduction of ages;
- influence peddling;

- cheating;
- extortion from candidates;
- mismanagement of PTA levies,
- misappropriation of school property;
- clandestine institutions,
- etc.

Considering this, we must point out that the consequences of corruption are devastating: scepticism about the authenticity of results and performance quality, which tarnishes the image of the teacher and impoverishes families. As far-reaching consequences, the education system is likely to produce inefficient engineers, doctors, teachers, managers, in short, a mediocre elite, and the country's development may be jeopardised.

**Dear Governor,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

The beginning of each school year always presents a governance challenge, as you already know. Indeed, at this time of the school year, there are many solicitations as well as physical contacts. This explains why, for some years now, CONAC has been assisting administrative and school authorities through a campaign called "**Corruption-free Back to School**".

For example, at the start of the 2020/2021 school year, CONAC organised a sensitisation caravan in the various regions of Cameroon to solicit Regional and Divisional Delegates of the Education and Vocational Training Sectors, as well as Heads of Schools to create Integrity Clubs in schools.

Similarly, in November 2020, we installed integrity clubs in private higher education institutions and remobilised integrity clubs in State Universities throughout the country.

**The Governor,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

With specific reference to the Littoral Region, you are aware that since the two English-speaking Regions of our country have been affected by a social crisis, schools in the Region in general and particularly those in the Wouri Division have been experiencing high demand for admission.

This automatically creates an imbalance between these solicitations and the possibility to gain admission in schools in the Region. This situation can lead to bribery, influence peddling, abuse of power or office, and extortion, at the expense of merit and respect for the rules governing enrolment in schools.

Douala was chosen as venue for the launching ceremony because it is one of the most populated cities in Cameroon. Historically, Douala has produced the highest number of complaints pertaining to enrolment and the management of PTA levies.

The campaign we are launching today will extend to all regions and will be carried out in two phases. The first phase will be devoted to raising awareness by putting up anti-corruption posters and boards in schools, because it has been proven that the best strategy for fighting corruption should necessarily focus strongly on prevention. The second will be repressive. We will have to collect complaints, carry out the necessary investigations and refer those found guilty of the offences to Court.

This “2021-2022 Corruption-free Back to School” campaign is supported by an activity called **“What doesn't belong to you, don't touch it,”** which was designed to promote integrity among young people. This component was part of a campaign launched on February 9, 2021 in Yoko, in preparation for the Youth Day, with the firm belief that integrity is the best weapon to fight corruption.

For this school year 2021-2022, CONAC will work with the education stakeholders to ensure a transparent admission process

that enables deserving candidates, regardless of their social class, to gain admission into the schools they desire. This is called social justice, the key to lasting peace. Posters will also be used to popularise the criminal sanctions applicable to those guilty of corrupt practices.

**Mr. Governor,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

We wish to reiterate that the fight against corruption is a constant commitment of the Head of State, His Excellency Paul BIYA, who, in his **Special Address to the Council of Ministers on September 12, 2007**, decried the ravages of corruption in the following words, I quote: **“Corruption, to a large extent, jeopardises our efforts to succeed. It undermines public morality. Everyone (...) must be committed to this fight in his or her own area of responsibility”**. End of quote.

Through this campaign and all the other activities organised targeting young people, CONAC intends to draw the attention of the education community to the damaging effects of corruption, to protect children from this social cankerworm and to equip young people with the necessary skills to fight against corruption.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,
Dear Media Men and Women,**

This is our opening statement, so that in case anyone has a question about the “2021-2022 school year” campaign, we would like to ensure that we do not deviate too far from the intended purpose.

Thank you for your kind attention /.