REPUBLIQUE DU CAMEROUN Paix - Travail - Patrie

Présidence de la République

Commission Nationale Anti-Corruption (CONAC)

Tél.: 237 22 20 37 32 / 658 26 26 82/ 651 64 91 94

Ligne verte: 1517/ Fax: 237 22 20 37 30

B.P: 33 200 Yaoundé

Peace President

REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON

Peace - Work - Fatherland

Presidency of the Republic

National Anti-Corruption Commission (NACC)

WhatsApp: (237) 658 26 26 82 URL: http://www.conac.cm Mailto: info@conac.cm

STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN OF CONAC ON THE COMMEMORATION OF THE 8th AFRICAN ANTI-CORRUPTION DAY

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On this day, the 11th of July 2024, Member States of the African Union are commemorating the 8th edition of Africa Anti-Corruption Day.

The theme of this year's celebration is "Effective mechanisms for the protection of whistleblowers: a crucial tool in the fight against corruption". This theme was chosen in view of the review of 20 years of implementation of the African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption, done in 2023 by the African Union Advisory Board against Corruption. The review highlighted weaknesses in whistleblower protection mechanisms as one of the challenges in the anti-corruption drive in Africa.

Corruption being a concealed activity, knowledge of all the practices involved would never come to light if no one reported them or alerted the authorities. This is why the role of whistleblowers is essential in the fight against this scourge.

In Cameroon, Article 3 paragraphs 2 and 3 of Decree No. 2006/088 of 11 March 2006 on the setting up, organisation and functioning of the National Anti-Corruption Commission provides a framework for whistleblowing and the protection of whistleblowers. Paragraph 2 of this article states that: "any natural person or corporate body may also lodge with the Commission, any complaint or denunciation of corrupt deeds or facts". Paragraph 3, which provides some degree of protection for whistleblowers, adds that "the Commission shall be bound to protect its sources of information. Provided that, where the malicious intent of the informer is established, the Commission shall disclose the source concerned at the behest of the court".

We have always said, and reiterate today, in commemoration of Africa Anti-Corruption Day, that there is still room for improvement in the protection of whistleblowers. And we hope that this will be done through an anti-corruption law, which CONAC and the Cameroonian Parliament continue to campaign for.

By virtue of the firm commitment and unwavering determination of the President of the Republic, His Excellency, Paul BIYA, to rid Cameroon of corruption, we invite the citizens of Cameroon to continue to denounce corruption and its related offences which they witness or are victims of, and to do so responsibly through the following CONAC channels: the toll-free number, 15 17, the Whatsapp number, 658 26 26 82 and the email address info@conac.cm.

We also urge our compatriots to acknowledge that denouncing corruption, without grudge or complacency, is a civic responsibility and an important contribution to the development of our country.

Rév. Dr Dieudonné MASSI GAMS, Président de la Commission Nationale Anti-Corruption