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Peace – Work – Fatherland

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**TRAINING SEMINAR ON THE COMMEMORATION
OF THE 21ST EDITION OF THE INTERNATIONAL
ANTI-CORRUPTION DAY**

9TH DECEMBER, 2024 IN BAFOUSSAM

SPEECH BY
THE CHAIRMAN OF CONAC
Rev. Dr Dieudonné MASSI GAMS

Bafoussam, 10th December, 2024

**The Governor of the West Region,
The Senior Divisional Officer of Mifi,
The President of the West Regional Council,
The Sub-Divisional Officers of Bafoussam I and II,
The Mayor of Bafoussam City Council,
Chairpersons of Anti-Corruption Units,
Distinguished guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen**

We would like to begin by sincerely thanking the Governor of the West Region for all the measures taken to ensure the smooth running of activities to celebrate the 2024 International Anti-Corruption Day. These activities began yesterday, Monday 9th December, 2024, with an awareness-raising march in which many of us took part.

We would also like to thank the Lord Mayor of the City of Bafoussam, for providing CONAC with this magnificent facility and for the kind words of welcome he extended to us.

We would also like to thank the Chairpersons and members of Anti-Corruption Units, who have been involved for some years now in raising awareness and providing training, for integrity and accountability in the functioning of our institutions, whether public or private.

Ladies and gentlemen.

I would like you to rise and observe a minute's silence in memory of one of us, **Mr BENDEGUE Jean Marie Vianney**, Inspector General of the Ministry of State Property, Survey and Land Tenure, who passed on to glory on the 25th of November, 2024.

May his soul rest in peace.

**Mr Governor,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Corruption is one of the causes of retarded development and institutional instability throughout the world today, and especially in our country. This scourge is notoriously detrimental to efforts to achieve economic development, equity and justice in human societies.

As a result, the United Nations decided, as a matter of urgency, to find ways and means of preventing and effectively combating corruption.

On the 31st of October, 2003, the UN General Assembly adopted the United Nations Convention against Corruption, which aims at strengthening anti-corruption measures, promoting integrity and facilitating international cooperation to better combat this transnational scourge.

At the same time, 9th December was declared International Anti-Corruption Day, a day to raise public awareness on the harmful effects of this social ill, to keep anti-corruption stakeholders constantly on their toes, and to disseminate information about the role of the aforementioned Convention - the United Nations Convention against Corruption.

The global theme for the 21st International Anti-Corruption Day is **“Uniting with Youth against Corruption: Shaping Tomorrow's Integrity”**.

It is clear from this theme that integrity, which we have always presented as the most powerful weapon to fight corruption, is the foundation of good governance. If we succeed in passing on this patriotic vision to the younger generations, we will undoubtedly win the fight against this scourge.

The Governor,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Integrity is cultivated through education and reinforced through transparency promotion tools such as the digitisation of administrative procedures. This is why the main theme of this training seminar is: **“The Cameroon online E-procurement System (COLEPS) as a tool in the fight against corruption in public procurement”**. This theme is important for CONAC and other anti-corruption stakeholders.

Firstly, public contracts, or more generally public procurement, constitute a vulnerable area for corruption due to the huge financial resources at stake, allocated by the State budget.

Secondly, we are just a few days away from a new budgetary year.

And thirdly, by virtue of its constituting decree, CONAC has been entrusted with the task of carrying out physical and financial controls on the execution of projects, as well as evaluating the conditions under which public contracts are awarded.

Apart from the theme of COLEPS as a tool in the fight against corruption in public procurement, we will also address issues relating to:

- Rapid Results Initiative Data,
- Change management and
- The new approach to preparing the Anti-Corruption Status Report.

In the past, CONAC has achieved commendable results with a number of Ministries and public establishments, particularly with regard to Rapid Results Initiatives, an innovative approach to resolving a governance issue in 100 days. Unfortunately, this enthusiasm has faded over time. We hope that, with your contribution as strategic leaders in the implementation of RRI, we will be able to give new impetus to this approach, which has proven its worth in the fight against corruption in our country.

The Governor,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We are therefore pleased to know that Anti-Corruption Units are succeeding in meeting the challenge of consistency in terms of participation in our meetings outside our various places of work. This is to the credit of the anti-corruption drive in our country. This fight therefore requires consistency, proximity and passion.

This commitment by each and every one of you to make your personal contribution and that of the institution that employs you is backed, rest assured, by the commitment of the President of the Republic, His Excellency Paul BIYA, to eradicate this scourge in our country. This determination was reaffirmed on 31st December, 2023, in his address to the Nation. we quote: **“Actions implemented to combat corruption and misappropriation of public funds are essential for protecting public resources. They will be intensified in the coming year”**.

The theme for this 21st International Anti-Corruption Day encourages the 190 States parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption to mobilise young people to adopt the principles of integrity. While working in line with the international theme, CONAC is placing this year's event, as we said yesterday, on the national theme: **“Let's make ethics and integrity the driving force of our country's emergence”**.

The Governor,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We would like to wish everyone a successful participation in this seminar, which seeks to equip the key anti-corruption stakeholders in our country with the necessary tools.

Thank you for your keen attention.