



TRANSPARENCY ETHIOPIA

THE VOICE



Transparency Ethiopia Quarterly Newsletter

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

SEP.—NOV. 2007

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Dec. 9 international anti-corruption day

Editorial

Fight corruption through 'top—down' and 'bottom—up' approaches

This newsletter of Transparency Ethiopia is the first of its kind for the association and will be published every three months afterwards..

Transparency Ethiopia believes that corruption is the most disastrous phenomenon to citizens and the development endeavors of the developing world like Ethiopia. Since time immemorial, corruption issue had been a taboo neither for discussion nor as an agenda in Ethiopia. But currently, it has become the number one challenge for every walk of life. It has immense repercussions for development and a continual moral decadence of the society.

It is widely perceived that corruption is the most decentralized endemic—with no safe place—in urban as well as rural areas, and from high to low level officials.

Therefore, before coming to the most frustrating days; Transparency Ethiopia call upon all stakeholders (the government, NGOs/Civil Society Organizations, the private sector and the general public) to fight the canker. The collaboration and partnership of watch dog institutions, law enforcing agencies, and others to deny 'safe heaven' for corruptors and make corruption the most risky business ever. Every citizen on the other hand, should come to the stage where one can show its intolerance to corrupt practices.

We believe that there will be a meaningful fight against the evil through a committed political will (from top to down) and the participation of citizens (from bottom to up).

The International Anti-Corruption movement

Corruption has continued to defy human dignity and progress for ages. It has been a societal Achilles hill since Biblical times. Ancient Scholarship from morality through theology to sociology do variously label it as a curse that grows out of human moral decadence and sinful disposition of the self. History tells us that the extent of corruption could reach to disproportionate levels as was the case with Pre-Victorian Britain with the sale of parliamentary seats, and "machine politics" in immigrant cities in the U.S. at the turn of the 19th century. Our legacy has been dotted with flagrant acts of corruption in which the individual presides over the fortunes of society; governments play against the interests of their subjects; institutions operate against the wills of the people they are supposed to serve; businesses exploit their customers – the list goes on and on! Corruption is simply a reality with many faces and colors!

Unlike the age of silence preceding it, how ever, the second half of the 20th century has brought with it a revolution which succeeded in breaking the societal taboo on corruption and mobilizing the public against corrupted practices in all walks of life. Political and corporate scandals committed in big
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YOU CAN STOP CORRUPTION!



PROFILE OF TRANSPARENCY ETHIOPIA

Transparency Ethiopia (TE) is a not-for-profit, non-partisan and membership-based civil society organization that aims to combat corruption in Ethiopia in collaboration with like-minded Civil Society Organizations, government agencies, international organizations, the private sector, the media and all concerned citizens.

TE works to ensure that transparency and accountability gain acceptance as standard styles of work in all levels of society and walks of life. The organization has been operating in Ethiopia since October 2002 in pursuit of its anti-corruption objectives.

The fight against corruption is about expediting socioeconomic development; it is about creating an environment where corruption is regarded as a disgrace to society, to the well being of generations to come.

The International ...

democracies such as the US have also helped to justify the causes of the anti-corruption struggle and broaden the reaches of the movement to an international setting.

Faced with immense pressure from within as well as with out, countries began to pass laws intended to curb corruption. Following initiatives taken in the late 1970s, there has been an explosion of international interest in anti-corruption activity giving birth to the first International Anti-Corruption Conference (IACC) in 1983. Since then the IACC has become a global forum for networking and cross-fertilization that is indispensable for effective international and national advocacy and action against corruption.

The 1990s have also witnessed the rise of a key number of new governmental and social forces both at the domestic and international levels. Two of the most prominent "moral Crusaders" of the 1990s was the renewed interest in anti-corruption commissions and the birth of Transparency International (TI), an INGO based in Berlin whose primary mission has been to work to create change towards a world free of corruption.

The struggle has been further intensified in the new millennium through the passage of significant legislations at the global and national levels besides the establishment of specialised governmental and civic society institutions that work on corruption. The African Union (AU) Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption and Related Offences as well as the United Nations (UN)

Anti-Corruption Convention were adopted in July 2003 and December 2003 respectively. To mark the launch of the UN convention, the UN General assembly subsequently designated 9 December as International Anti-Corruption Day. At a national level, the Federal Government of Ethiopia has established the Federal Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (FEACC) in 2001 and subsequently ratified the UN and AU conventions making one more score to its readiness to fight against corruption in a systematic manner. All the favorable steps taken to standardize and institutionalize the movement have therefore laid the foundation for building a

common global front against corruption. Yet, this is an agenda too critical to be left to the government alone. The fight against corruption is about expediting socioeconomic development; it is about creating an environment where corruption is regarded as a disgrace to society, to the well being of generations to come. Thus, the civil society has a huge stake in it. And that led to the establishment of Transparency Ethiopia (the then Tigrat Transparency Ethiopia) in 2002 with a vision of creating an Ethiopia free of corruption.

The interplay of the various actors at the global and local levels as such constitutes the organizational tissue of the international anti-corruption movement. According to scholars in the field, the movement is characterized by the following peculiar features:-

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TE SIGNS A PROJECT AGREEMENT WITH FEACC

Transparency Ethiopia has signed an agreement with the Federal Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission on 20 November 2007 to jointly work on a project which is intended to raise public awareness on corruption issues via panel-discussion.

The project provides for four quarterly panel discussion sessions spread out in a period of 12 months, with each session lasting 2 hours.

Prominent personalities, public servants, high-ranking officials, members of the private sector and experts drawn from the gov-

ernment, the civil society and the private sector will attend the panel discussions. The discussions will largely focus on prominent corruption issues and problems in Ethiopia including corruption legislations, problems of corruption in public service, corruption in the social sectors, the role of media in the anti-corruption struggle, corporate corruption, the need for networking and coalition building to fight against corruption, among others.

The project, which will be undertaken at a cost of 99,132 Ethiopian Birr, will be fully covered by Transparency Ethiopia from a

YOUR VOICE

For our first issue we wanted to give you a sample of what people thought about Corruption in our capital city. So we asked few people: *Do you believe that corruption is an important and pressing issue for Ethiopia?* and this is what they answered.

Ms Kalkidan Abiy-Hailu argues that *“Yes I strongly believe corruption to be an important agenda for Ethiopia. Firstly it has been with us for a long time- in fact it has become normal. In most government agencies it has become a vicious circle- underpaid civil servants view bribes as their second source of income. On the other hand the public has accepted that, in order to get things done, they have to bribe the public servants. Lastly, most people are not aware of what the Federal Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (FEACC) does, how to access it. And since most people are afraid of the consequences they will not expose any wrong doings.”*

Secondly we asked Mr X. the same question. *“Yes of course corruption is a pressing agenda for us in Ethiopia. Lets look at it this*

way, the country has little resources that if corruption carries on as it is, then what will we be left with? No statistics are needed to tell us that corruption is detrimental to Ethiopia. In fact, corruption has become such a normal way of life that the one who chooses not to get involved is considered to be daft.”

Mrs Y concurs, *“This issue is very much related to the loss of people’s rights. All existing efforts are geared towards dealing with the issue once it has taken place rather than dealing with the causes. When we think of corruption, we think of the victims alone. In some cases, since we do not know our rights, the victims are part of the problem. On the other hand, the ‘corrupted’ does not know his/her responsibilities and even if he/she is aware they seek loopholes to exploit. Most victims do*
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The International ...

It aggregates the efforts of governmental and non-governmental organizations- the fight against corruption is no longer a state-business affair. Civil society in its multiple forms has equally been engaged, thus raising interest considerations as to the accountability and legitimacy of their initiatives and the relationship between governmental and non-governmental actors: challengers, instrumental or mutually supportive?

- It is constituted of traditional such as the media, political parties, NGOs as well as new anti-corruption actors with different interpretations of the facts unveiled and measures to address them.
- It marries global and local initiatives – The fight against corruption is no longer at the mercy of state jurisdictions, actors and measures. The globalization of corruption mechanisms and transactions raises the need for an externalization and internationalization of control initiatives, whilst international initiatives need to be transposed in to national jurisdictions where most anti-corruption work is carried out.
- It is both a movement of global

awareness raising and opinion mobilization as well as a network of policy transfer and institutional mimetism-The notion of movement implies both an organized effort by different actors and supporters towards a common goal.

Currently, there is a global consensus that corruption undermines a country’s economic development and poverty reduction efforts. Research indicates that the “wages” of corruption in Africa and parts of Asia each year greatly exceed aid transfers. On a global level, Transparency International (TI) estimates that corruption siphons off 3 percent of the world’s Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per annum.

Today, the overriding interest does not only lie in exposing corruption but also in taking decisive actions against it, not just talk of action. This is how “Walking the Talk” becomes a reality!!

Research indicates that the “wages” of corruption in Africa and parts of Asia each year greatly exceed aid transfers.

TRANSPARENCY ETHIOPIA

**DEDICATED TO THE
FIGHT AGAINST
CORRUPTION!!**

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YOUR ...

not know where to go. And of course even when they know where to go, they choose not go the long way around as bribing is an easy way out. Since, the successes of the FEACC are not reported It has largely discourages people to come forward."

For Ms H *"Nowadays it has become imbedded in all our institutions and not just in government agencies. We tend to forget that there are many forms of corruption and that bribe is not the only kind."*

And finally, Ms Z argues that, *"this is an unquestionable fact. Corruption is most definitely an essential agenda for our country. We should all know our rights and responsibilities this will be the only way to reduce corruption as once we know our rights we will have not resort to bribes."*

ESTABLISHMENT OF TE

Transparency Ethiopia, which is the only anti-corruption civil society organization in Ethiopia, launched its First National Anti-Corruption Conference/The Citizens Forum from January 31 - February 1, 2003 at the UNECA conference center in Addis Ababa. Over 300 representatives drawn from the government, non-government organizations, the private sector, the student community, the general public, trade unions as well as Transparency International have attended the conference. During its first general assembly, TE's management board and its leadership elected. Subsequently, the organization has established its secretariat.

As corruption is a problem affecting the development and well being of society, Transparency Ethiopia seeks spearhead the fight by building a broad-based coalition with the private sector, civil society organizations, the government, faith-based organizations and the various social groups to prevent corrupt practices, improve service delivery, and foster a deep-rooted anti-corruption culture.

Vision, Mission , Objectives and Values of TE

VISION

To see a corruption-free Ethiopia where accountability and transparency are ensured in all sectors of the economy; public services are provided as per systems put in place; business transactions are undertaken based on regulations and standards governing the market; and corruption does not affect the equitable distribution of resources among society.

MISSION

To fight all forms of corruption in the public, private and non-governmental organization (NGO) sectors, and promote good governance and integrity in public affairs.

OBJECTIVES

Transparency Ethiopia's overall objective is to form a broad-based coalition against corruption which would enable all social and political forces join hands against corruption.

VALUES

Transparency & Accountability - TE is accountable for funds and outcomes and outputs of the programmes. It also assure open communication with stakeholders and the general public

Integrity - requites to commit it self to practice the values it propagates

Democracy - assuring internal democracy and equal rights and opportunities in the organization

Membership

Membership is open to committed individuals with high integrity, intent on social activism, and ready to fight corruption.