

# THE EYE



## ANTI-CORRUPTION COMMISSION NEWSLETTER

*Vol. 4*

*June, 2003*



**A SCENE FROM ONE OF THE PLAYS IN  
INTEGRITY CLUBS  
DRAMA COMPETITION - JUNE, 2003**



**ACC BOOTH AT NORTHERN REGION AGRICULTURAL  
SHOW IN MAKENI - MARCH 2003**



**COMMUNITY THEATRE TRAINING WORKSHOP  
AT MILE 91 - NOVEMBER, 2002**

# FROM THE COMMISSIONER'S DESK

The Editor-in-Chief in his editorial has aptly mentioned the historical fact of the ACC's 3rd birthday and was kind enough to proffer 'congratulations in spite of all difficulties!'

The above gives a definite picture of things past and of things to come. In plain language, the ACC though young as it is, and knowing full well that there are still hard days ahead, will continue to plod on. We will, as we are wont everywhere and always persist in highlighting this aspect of the ACC's mission. We will also continue to appeal for public support and understanding – not by using the emotional route to gain sympathetic advantage, rather we will continue to ask for your support first of all, as partners in the fight against corruption, inefficiency, bad administrative management and, secondly to combat all the ills appertaining there to: poverty, degradation, etc, which have seen our motherland consigned to the depths of despair and disarray.

The fight to halt retrogression is still on, and it behoves us all as Sierra Leoneans, and Friends of Sierra Leone, to rally round and support the cause in a transparent and judicious way for a rebirth of a Sierra Leone free from want, injustice, and corruption.

Corruption is known to be a formidable hindrance



Mr. Valentine T. Collier  
The Commissioner

to any form of good government; a terrible situation which applies to Sierra Leone. We have unfortunately and unnecessarily experienced the backlash.

The UN Secretary General Kofi Annan has stated that 'Good governance is perhaps the single most important factor in eradicating poverty and promoting development'.

It can therefore be correctly argued that for any form of sustainable development to take place in Sierra Leone, we should and must continue in a nationwide quest to curb corruption!

Fighting corruption should therefore continue to be a national concern!

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# EDITORIAL



Frederick Bobor James  
(Editor-in-Chief)

**T**he Fourth Edition of THE EYE is here. It comes as a special gift for the three-year existence of the Commission, – August 1 2000 – July 31 2003. Congratulations, in spite of all difficulties!

The Newsletter has since explored several themes. The First edition focused the factors that led to the enactment of the Anti-Corruption Act (ACA) 2000, the formation process, and the launching ceremony with its speeches, especially those by His Excellency the President and the Diplomatic Corps. The Second Edition dwelled on the essence of coalition building in a giant task such as fighting corruption, and also discussed the dynamic issue of gift. It is important to note here that the issues of gift and conflict of interest, both of keen interest to the people, have still not been cleared in relation to the mandate of the Commission.

The Third Edition addressed the apprehensions, aspirations and misconceptions the public has about the Commission, painstakingly answering and clarifying issues such as the mandate of the Commission as they contrast with the perceptions of the people, corrupt practices as outlined by ACA 2000 and the process a report on corruption goes through before the matter is finally taken to court.

The current edition begins a new theme which the Commission wants to address more robustly, as it is undoubtedly the hub of the fight against corruption – attitude

## EDITORIAL TEAM



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change! Corruption can be said to be a normative practice. Conscientizing people to understand clearly the destruction corruption can cause to a nation, and the benefit of a corrupt –free society, can bring about the desired attitude change. The people should be educated into seeing corruption as a common enemy that they must all join hands to fight.

In his article, 'Attitude and Character Change – the Quest for Moral Rearmament,' Desmond Johnson discusses how some of our cultural beliefs and values negatively affect our attitudes and promote corruption. Peter Kenah in 'Apathy To Change And The Fight Against Corruption In Sierra Leone,' brings out the enormity of the task of trying to change the attitude of a people who have for several decades accepted corruption as a way of life. He also points out other obstacles in the fight against corruption – 'culture of silence' and 'carefree attitude of the Sierra Leoneans'.

The article on Community Theatre highlights the potential this new strategy has to take the fight against corruption to the mass of the people and ensure their participation in identifying the corrupt practices that affect them at local level. Some articles in this edition further pursue themes in the previous editions. The fiction and joke columns are conspicuously blank in this issue. We want to apologise to our readers for this omission, and promise to fill these columns in subsequent editions.

It is not our policy that articles in the newsletter should come only from staff of the Commission. We want contributions from our readers, coalition partners, etc, the theme, broadly put, is the fight against corruption in Sierra Leone. Articles are therefore encouraged from all and sundry for future editions. They should not be more than one thousand words, and should be addressed to the Editor, ACC, 3 Gloucester Street, Freetown, Sierra Leone, West Africa, or to gbambor@yahoo.com. You can also call us on tel: 220007, 221984 or fax 232 22 21900.

Articles in this issue purely reflect the views of the authors and not those of the Commission.

# THE ANTI-CORRUPTION ACT IN A NUTSHELL

The Anti-Corruption Act 2000 in a Nutshell was prepared by Mr. Brendan Gibb-Gray, the erstwhile Deputy Commissioner of ACC. The article was first published in the First Edition of this Newsletter. It is being published again for its relevance.

The Act, based largely on similar legislation in Hong Kong and Botswana repealed the Prevention of Corruption Act, which had become ineffective in dealing with the scale of corruption in the country. The new Act became law on the 3rd February 2000. Its main points are as follows:

- \* The Act established the Anti-Corruption Commission, headed by a Commissioner and a Deputy Commissioner. The Deputy shares the Commissioner's powers;
- \* The Commissioner is responsible for the implementation of the national anti-corruption strategy;
- \* The main functions of the Commission are-
  - a. Examine systems and procedures in an attempt to reduce corrupt opportunity;
  - b. Educate the public and enlist their support in the fight against corruption;
- \* Section 7 of the Act makes it an offence to acquire wealth by corrupt means. This allows the ACC to investigate the criminal as well as the crime;
- \* Sections 8 and 9 make it an offence for public officers to accept an advantage and to influence the award of a contract;
- \* Sections 12, 13 and 14 create offences in respect of the misappropriation of government revenue, donor funds and impeding foreign investment;
- \* Section 16 to 33 confer investigative powers on the Anti-Corruption Commission;
- \* Section 34 is important, it makes an offence of disclosing the fact that a person is under investigation, or that an investigation is being carried out. Sections 34 and 42 protect the identity of informers.
- \* All reports on investigations that reveal evidence that an offence has been committed, will be referred to the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice for his decision on whether or not a prosecution should commence (Section 36-37);
- \* Persons convicted under the Anti-Corruption Act face terms of imprisonment of up to ten years and heavy fines (Sections 40 and 41);
- \* Section 49 to 55 relate to the Administrative arrangements for the Commission and include:
  - Creation of an Advisory Committee,
  - Independence of the Commission,
  - Submission of an Annual Report to the President.
 The report will be tabled before Parliament.

# CHRONOLOGY OF IMPORTANT ACTIVITIES

## - 2003 -

- JANUARY 3 – 4** Three members of the Prevention Department attended a Workshop/Seminar on the need for a Monitoring Unit in the Department of Education, Science and Technology.
- JANUARY 6** ACC Secretariat resumed full operations after the Christmas and New Year breaks.
- JANUARY 9 – 10** The Commissioner and other Senior ACC staff attended a seminar on Budget Management and Execution, organised by the Ministry of Finance in Freetown.
- JANUARY 16** Community Relations Department (CRD) conducted video and radio interviews with officials of the Sierra Leone Teachers Union (SLTU), for the ACC Radio and TV Sensitisation Programmes.
- JANUARY 20** Prevention Department formally presented to the ACC Rules and Regulations governing Public Auctions.
- JANUARY 22** CRD TV and Radio interviews with Headteachers and Principals of selected schools in Freetown.
- JANUARY 23** ACC staff's first meeting with members of the Advisory Committee on corruption.
- JANUARY 25 – 28** Two staff from CRD monitored and evaluated the live drama performances on corruption staged by OPARD Drama Group in 15 communities of 20 miles radius of Mile 91, North of Sierra Leone.
- Members of Civil Society, UNDP and ACC staff met in Freetown to discuss a proposal prepared by Civil Society Movement to carry out a nation-wide sensitisation on corruption, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, the Special Court and the Judicial System.
- FEBRUARY 8 – 16** The Community Relations Department participated in a Trade Fair and Exhibition in Freetown, organised by the Sierra Leone Police and the Sierra Leone Association of Non-Governmental Organisations (SLAN-GO), Coalition partners of ACC.
- FEBRUARY 20 – 22** The Commission participated in the Northern Region Agricultural Show, ACC participation was planned and hosted by Community Relations Department.

- FEBRUARY 26** Community Relations Department participated in a nation-wide sensitisation campaign on Anti-Corruption, Truth and Reconciliation Commission, the Special Court and the Judicial System, conducted by the Civil Society Movement of Sierra Leone.
- MARCH 10** CRD had TV and radio interviews with some NGO representatives.
- MARCH 13** Members of the ACC Coalition discussed and adopted the Coalition Strategic Plan developed in a 4-day workshop in September 2002.
- MARCH 14 – 23** Staff of CRD made first quarter monitoring visit to Mile 91, Bo, Kenema, Makeni, and also held community sensitisation meetings in Segbwema, Kailahun and Kono.
- APRIL 9** CRD conducted TV and Radio interviews with NGOs, part II.
- APRIL 16** CRD conducted TV and Radio interviews with NGOs, part III.
- APRIL 24** CRD conducted panel discussions on NGOs and the Development Process at the SLBS-TV.
- APRIL** Some members of staff of the Prevention Department participated in the launch of the World Bank Project for the Ministry of Health and Sanitation, at the Bintumani Hotel, Aberdeen, Freetown.
- MAY 8** CRD conducted TV and Radio interviews with members of the Sierra Leone Union of Boat Owners Association.

*(Continued on page 18)*

## CHILD'S QUERY

**T. K. Akinbobola**  
Acting Principal Investigator

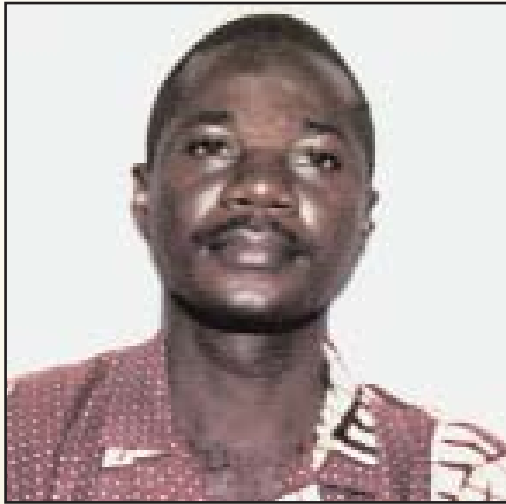
Alike are they  
Same stories same tales  
Your suffering is our concern  
That's what they say

The last has deceived them  
He came clean and neat  
Condemning the last  
Introducing brilliant ideas

They went for him and he was in  
The worst happened to them  
His child queried on behalf of them  
Dad they are worst off than before

I did not enter for them  
I entered not to be like them  
I entered for you not to feel hungry  
My child don't be ignorant

# IMPROVING PUBLIC PERCEPTION OF THE ACC



Martin Bek Massaquoi  
**Prevention Officer**

Travel in public vehicles, visit pubs or drinking houses, public eating places, ghettos and pep talk shops, and read editorials in local tabloids, the list may go on endlessly: all of them speak one thing in common – that the ACC is not performing!

Would these assertions be fair assessments or accurate judgements of the operations of the ACC? The answer is largely subjective, depending on the side of the ‘elephant’ you touch.

An insider working at the ACC, having the opportunity to touch the whole ‘elephant’, may view the various assertions as stemming from evaluation(s) made on the performance of one department only - the investigation department. The public’s slide rule assessment is based on the number of cases presently in the courts, the cases investigated or under investigation, convictions and imprisonments registered to date, and their impact in curbing or minimising the incidence of corruption in the country.

As a matter of fact, this outlook by the public

of ACC renders no surprises. The average Sierra Leonean for the last three decades had perceived corruption as an acceptable institution within the society, whose ideals are unfortunately perpetuated by those designed to eliminate it. The groups of Sierra Leoneans who find themselves afflicted and bearing no capacity to do anything about it blame their woes on these perpetrators. With this feeling of hopelessness, they find respite or solace in the presence of the ACC, and are therefore quite eager to see the ‘hammer’ brought down on those whom they naturally see as evil doers. They would only be positive about ACC had jail sentences been registered in the various matters forwarded for litigation in the courts. Hence, an assessment of ACC’s performance will only be derived from the prosecutions seen by this ‘suffering’ side.

Should we however attempt to split the ACC open a little, to discover the real inside; endeavour to touch and perceive the whole ‘elephant’, to create the right figure of the ACC by trying to know the departments and functions each perform? Maybe by this way one would be in the position to make a fair judgement of the Commission’s work.

There are four main departments at the ACC; Community Relations Department, Prevention Department, Research and Development Department and the Investigation Department.

The Community Relations Department and the Prevention Department share the same Directorate. The Community Relations Department gets the message of the ACC and corruption generally to the people/community, sensitising the public in awareness raising campaigns. It could be referred to as

the education and Public Relations Department. The jingles, adverts, soap operas, etc, which have become popular today, are sent out in concert with the media by this Department. If anyone can learn about ACC, bless the good works of this department.

Prevention Department on the other hand examines systems and procedures, and if need be put good and workable systems in place in public and private departments. Two groups are involved in this endeavour, and have successfully carried out preventive exercises in the Health, Education, Economic Development, and Local Government Ministries.

The Research and Development Department could be referred to as the intelligence centre of the Commission, responsible for collecting and collating intelligence, which might be useful for investigation. They too have gathered invaluable bits of information that have proved worthwhile not only to the Commission but the Security Apparatus in the Country.

The Investigation Department as its name suggests, carries out investigation into allegations of corruption brought to the

## SILENT DAWN

Frederick Bobor James

What!

So you are here already  
Hanging over the horizon  
And sending dull rays through my  
cell guest house room  
Where I lay in pitch darkness  
With mosquitoes drumming in my  
ears  
For goddamned good fee

I dropped stone dead  
On this rickety bed  
From bone-breaking anti-corruption  
campaign  
Forging alliance with radio stations  
And conscientizing helpless victims  
From west to south and east

Here in the northeast you emerge  
stealthily  
Ahead of the muezzins  
The orchestra of birds  
And other nocturnal beings  
Ahead of life itself  
To gaze through my window  
Gaping at me sprawled on this bed

You are a silent dawn  
That will see me rise to my feet  
To take off again  
On this bloodless mammoth fight

Commission by the public or proven by the preliminary study of the Prevention Department. It is their business to pursue matters in court in collaboration with the office of the Attorney General.

As a matter of fact, the public has only been keen on the outcome of the operations of this Department. Not seeing heads roll in court to them is to mean the ACC is not working. Much cannot be done on the part of ACC when the duty to prosecute rests with the Attorney General's office. The numerous systems now perfectly working, financial control measures instituted in all places the Commission has intervened or been invited, the scare people have today to engage in corrupt practice is a consequence of ACC's presence, and the confidence of the international community to continue doing business with Sierra Leone rests on this Commission.

While this cannot be a rebuff, may it also serve to admonish the public that it only requires patience and trust in the doings of the Commission. Anticipated results may be slow in coming, but the achievements made so far are by no means insignificant. ACC has removed this nation miles away from where it was two years ago.

# ATTITUDE AND CHARACTER CHANGE - THE QUEST FOR MORAL REARMAMENT



**Desmond R. E. Johnson**  
**Community Relations Officer**

In my last article I pointed out some of the effects of corruption. I classified them into economic, social and political. I also concluded that article by appealing to our political leaders to lead the fight against corruption. I strongly believe that without their effort we are still far from success. This however does not mean that as individuals we do not have our own part to play. In fact ours is more important as we call ourselves patriotic citizens. This has to do with our opinions, and attitudes. It is difficult to define attitude but it is by and large our response or readiness to respond in a predetermined manner to situations. It is

the way you think and feel about a situation.

Our culture, way of life, to a large extent helps to mould our attitudes and characters. You would agree with me that some of our cultural practices develop negative attitudes in us. Take these sayings for example, 'You cannot feed a baby with your hands and then don't lick your fingers when you finish'. Another is 'Where a cow is tethered there it would graze', and 'You do not smell the mouth of the one who is pounding your benni seed'. Repeatedly people say them in offices, homes and public places as a means of reinforcing their negative and destructive attitudes. Although I agree that our culture is our way of life, yet we must start weeding out from it these unproductive thoughts, which tend to develop negative attitudes in us. You would agree with me, I am sure, if I say it is our culture that teaches us to be corrupt. What is corruption then? For me any behaviour that is wrong economically, socially and politically is corruption. In short when one fails to do that which he must do or do that which one is not supposed to do is corruption.

Moral is the standards of behaviour considered acceptable and right by most people. In our society today most people consider corruption as right. It is more or less a way of life and therefore part of our culture. However, we have seen over the years that as our society loses its good moral standards, it gradually slides down the ladder to a state of complete decadence and utter destruction. What is the way forward? As Sierra Leoneans we must develop a new spirit of patriotism – love for our fatherland. This means that as individuals we must develop new personalities and attitudes.

We should shelve away those qualities and features that make us look different and negative. This means that our attitude and behaviour towards situations and occurrences within our society must change. We must from the grassroots begin to frown on those negative aspects of our culture, which we now uphold. We must begin to teach our children to develop a new spirit of integrity within them. Let us teach them to feed a child and not lick the fingers. Instead we must give the fingers to the child for

him to lick because the food was meant for him and not for us. We must tell them that cows graze where they are tethered but we are humans and must not consider ourselves to be animals. It is therefore clear in my view that for us to forge ahead from this squalor, every individual citizen must decide to rearm himself/herself morally. This is a bold step every Sierra Leonean ought to take. Our leaders must take the lead. They should be role models who uphold integrity. Then and only then would they be able to mobilize the population against corrupt practices. This would enable them to develop action plans and set out objectives and practical measures to control corruption.

They would also be able to realize that when the people are in a state of desperate need, there is a psychological consequence, which is a drive – the drive to be corrupt. Without this individual moral rearmament, this nation is, well, should I say, doomed?

## **FIGHTING CORRUPTION AND SAFEGUARDING INTEGRITY**

**Mrs. Agnes Mason,**

*Director, Research and Development Department*

**W**e should all be deeply concerned about the spread of corruption, which is a virus capable of crippling the government, discrediting the public institutions and private corporations and having a devastating impact on human rights. It undermines society and its development, affecting the poor in particular. We should all be determined to prevent and combat all forms of corruption. Examples should be set by the government in ensuring the integrity of their officials and by the private sector in applying high standards of accountability. To safeguard integrity, correct laws must be enacted and an independent, effective and efficient judiciary must be established. There should also be changes in our attitudes and in long-standing practices.

Corruption cannot prosper where there is openness and transparency in our deeds and actions. Policies aimed at reducing or eradicating corrupt practices must be adopted. Poverty reduction strategies will never be effective when corruption is rampant. Therefore fighting corruption is crucial for reaching development objectives. Anti-corruption efforts must always be an integral part of promoting good governance.

Fighting corruption requires cooperation and commitment at all levels from global to local, and at all levels of government and from non-governmental organizations. Raising awareness of the negative impact of corruption is an important contribution in which the press can play a major role. Educating the public on the evils of corruption can also help in combating corruption.

The highest degree of transparency in all aspects of government work is essential to promote integrity and to fight corruption. The government should adopt widely publicized and enforced legislation and procedures that provide the public and the media in the best possible way an optimum degree of access to information relevant to fighting corruption. Government organizations and procedures should be designed in a manner that reduces opportunities for corruption and creates incentives for public integrity. We should all be determined to prevent and combat all forms of corruption in our country through dedication and commitment, through integrity and transparency, through accountability and cooperation, corruption and its evils will be minimised if not eradicated.

# COMMUNITY THEATRE: FACILITATING PEOPLE'S PARTICIPATION IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION IN SIERRA LEONE

Frederick Bobor James

## INTRODUCTION

Corruption is one of the major factors debarring development in Sierra Leone. To arrest the social, economic and other malaise caused by this canker, Government has, through assistance from DFID, set up an Anti-Corruption Commission. The mandate of the Commission is to investigate all cases of alleged or suspected corruption, prevent corruption, educate the people on the evils of corruption, and solicit and foster their support in the fight against corruption.

Given the high illiteracy level in the country, and the ten-year brutal rebel war with all its attendant problems, it has been a daunting task to get the masses who are the victims of corruption to understand the mandate of the Commission, and to contribute meaningfully to this all important drive. Many strategies and/or methodologies have been experimented with in trying to cultivate the optimal participation of the people: use of print and electronic media, mounting of Regional Sensitisation Workshops, holding of Interactive Community Sensitisation Meetings, etc.

In November 2002, the Commission, in search of a more participatory approach to the fight against corruption, adopted the use of Community Theatre.

## WHAT IS COMMUNITY THEATRE?

This genre of theatre is referred to by several names: popular theatre, theatre for development, theatre for integrated rural development,

participatory theatre and theatre for community animation. Here we are talking about theatre that is distinct from formal theatre; it is folk drama patterned on traditional storytelling techniques. It is people's theatre.

Community theatre is used by development workers as a means of communication, a means of community education aimed at enabling people to participate in discussions and in taking action on some locally defined problems. This is the type of theatre that speaks to the rulers as well as the ruled. It is the form of theatre that can make people in rural communities become subjects of their own development process and not objects. It is theatre that uses the art forms (stories, songs, mime and music) of the people to talk to them, and addresses their social, economic and other realities directly.

## THE MILE 91 COMMUNITY THEATRE WORKSHOP

The Mile 91 Community Theatre Training Workshop was held for ten days (November 17 – 26, 2002), and it was designed to train two drama groups in the use of this new type of theatre before contracting them to perform in selected communities in their areas of operation. The groups were Combined Artistes (WAN POT) from the Western Area and the Organisation for Peace and Reconciliation and Development (OPARD) drama group from the Northern Region. The workshop was research-based, which means that the groups met in Mile 91 with no inventory. They used data collected from the community to

make dramas for presentation in Mile 91 and thirty other communities, fifteen in the Western Area and fifteen in the North.

## THE WORKSHOP PROCESS

Designed to be purely participatory, the workshop followed the following process: preparatory visits; confidence building; presentations on the concept, process and methodologies of community theatre; data collection; data analysis; drama-making and rehearsals; performances in Mile 91 and post-performances discussions; live performances in fifteen communities of twenty mile radius of Mile 91 and fifteen communities in the outskirts as well as squatter settlements in the western area; and monitoring and evaluation of the live performances.

Now let us take a close look at each stage of the process.

## PREPARATORY VISITS

On the whole, three preparatory visits were made to Mile 91 to plan the workshop. The first visit was as early as February 2002 when the Department intended to host the workshop in April of that year. During this visit a Mile-91-based drama group was identified and a preliminary discussion was held with it regarding hosting of the workshop. Events overtook the ACC staff and the date was shifted indefinitely. By October the Department was now very certain about the date for hosting the workshop and therefore made the second planning visit late that month. The visit was used to acquaint the Chiefs and Elders with the intention of the Department to host the workshop

in their community, the aim, objectives and methodology of the workshop and to solicit their assistance in the areas of accommodation, cooking, hall, and to identify some one to coordinate the activities of the Mile 91 group on behalf of ACC. A coordinator had already been identified for Wan Pot, the Western Area group. Both coordinators were chosen from the Sierra Leone Teachers Union (SLTU), one of the Commission's coalition partners. During the third and final planning visit, the group agreed on the cost of rooms, hall, food, time and venue for serving food, etc. After this visit the group was now set to travel to Mile 91 for the workshop on Sunday, November 17 2002.

### CONFIDENCE BUILDING

It is natural for community people to be worried about the presence of a large number of strangers in their midst, particularly when these strangers are coming from a city. It was therefore important for a group such as the one from Freetown, to first build the confidence of the people before it started to work among them. For the confidence building exercises participants explored the town, visited authorities, local groups and had a grand formal opening ceremony. It was easy to win the confidence of the community because one of the groups was based in Mile 91 and the other comprised comedians of national repute.

### PRESENTATIONS

Most of the practitioners at the workshop were from formal theatre background, it was therefore expedient to introduce them to this new genre of theatre. This took two days during which three presentations were made covering the concept, the history, and the process as well as the techniques and methodologies of Community Theatre. The evenings were used for dramatic games which helped to bridge the social gap between participants, and discover the practical distinctions between techniques of formal theatre and community theatre. Following this, the workshop team was divided into three sub-groups, based on the sections into which Mile 91 is divided.



Presentations on the concept, history, etc of Community Theatre

### DATA COLLECTION

Data here means information on corrupt practices affecting the community researched. The three sub-groups, therefore, went out to gather information on corrupt practices that take place in Mile 91. Data was collected for two days, and at the end of each day the sub-groups would come together and compile their findings. The day following data collection, the sub-groups met together in plenary to report and discuss their findings. The information collected were put under eight broad headings: Misappropriation of Public Funds, Corruption in NGOs, Corruption in the Police, Corruption Practised by Local Authorities, Corruption in Provincial Administration, the Ministry of Education Science and Technology, the Community itself, and the Ministry of Health.

Here are the details of the information collected.

### MISAPPROPRIATION OF PUBLIC FUNDS

- a. Market structure put up in Mile 91 does not worth the money provided for its construction.
- b. Market dues are not utilized for the purposes for which they are collected.
- c. Money provided to construct a roundabout in Mile 91 was put into private use.
- d. Money collected for running a Community Radio Station in Mile 91 is not accounted for.
- e. The Ministry of Agriculture supplies seeds and tools to the wrong people, who in turn sell them to traders.

### CORRUPTION IN NGOs

- a. Some NGO supplies are sold to traders
- b. Some NGO staff demand a bribe of Le5000 before they supply non-food items.
- c. Some NGO staff do not supply the exact quantity of non-food items to the beneficiaries.
- d. Some NGOs obtain funds for projects on behalf of communities but fail to utilize the funds for projects.
- e. Micro-credit funds provided by Government and other institutions are misdirected.
- f. Implementing agencies fail to pay salaries to tutors of excombatants.

### CORRUPTION IN THE POLICE

- a. Traffic police take bribes from drivers.
- b. Police demand money from complainants.

### LOCAL AUTHORITIES

- a. That local authorities and other dignitaries stand in the way of development in the community.
- b. That local authorities convert funds meant for community development to their own personal use.
- c. That they take bribe from opposing factions.
- d. That they pervert justice.
- e. That they extort money through false summon fees.
- f. That the local authorities conduct Kangaroo Courts.

### **PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION**

- a. That the provincial administration levy high taxation.
- b. That the District Officers interfere with revenues collected by the Native Administration.

### **MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

- a. That teachers collect fees from pupils for private lessons.
- b. That teachers' salaries are delayed for months.
- c. That textbooks provided for schools by the Ministry are sold on the streets.
- d. That teachers force pupils to buy pamphlets produced by them the teachers.

### **THE COMMUNITY**

- a. That some community members bribe government officials for positions and contracts.
- b. That some members of the community sell a piece of land to more than one person.

### **HEALTH**

- a. That drugs supplied to hospitals are sold on the market.
- b. That drug peddlers sell expired drugs.

### **DATA ANALYSIS**

The data analysis was done with a cross section of the Mile 91 Community. This included women, men, the aged, children and representatives of most of the institutions that were implicated by the data. This stage of the workshop process allowed community representatives to confirm or reject the data; to explain why these practices occur and what they had done as a community to correct them. It is interesting to note that the representatives rejected the allegation that police demand money from complainants, but confirmed traffic police still received bribes from drivers. After the discussion the data was put on a scale of preference, so that the most pervasive corrupt practices would be dramatised by the two drama groups.



Data analysis with a cross-session of the Mile 91 Community

### **DRAMA-MAKING AND REHEARSALS**

The OPARD group used the corrupt practices most prevalent in the Mile 91 community to make a play, while the WAN POT Group used corrupt practices that cut across the country to make their own drama. The plays were composed and rehearsed for three days, and one day was set aside to shoot them at different locations. To capture and sustain the interest of the audience, Community Theatre makes use of entertainment as a vehicle to educate. This was a new approach for OPARD, which most of the time practises formal theatre. Wan Pot, a group of comedians could not add any more comic juice to their play, it would overflow. Land dispute, taking bribe from opposing factions by chiefs, collecting money from parents by teachers, NGO staff collecting money from project beneficiaries, were the major themes of the two plays.



A scene on Drama-making and rehearsals

### **PERFORMANCES AND POST-PERFORMANCES DISCUSSIONS**

The two plays composed at the workshop were performed at three levels. The first was when they were being shot at locations in Mile 91. People converged at the different locations to watch what was happening. At the second level, the plays were performed in a big hall in Mile 91 for people to watch free-of-charge. The performances were followed by post-performances discussions when people from the audience were asked to say what they had learnt from the dramas and to suggest solutions/recommendations that would assist the Commission in the fight against corruption, and what they too can do to combat corruption in their community. The performances which were video recorded including the whole workshop process, were edited and shown on National Television (SLBS-TV). The groups were commissioned to each conduct live performance of their play in 15 communities of twenty miles radius of their operational area. This was the third level of performance of the two plays. The live performances were also followed by post performances discussions which allowed the audiences to react to what they had watched on stage.

When the live performances were completed, staff from Community Relations Department went to all the villages where they were conducted and held meetings with the people to discuss the lessons they had learnt from the plays, and how the problems depicted by the plays affect them. The staff also encouraged the people to cooperate with the Commission by reporting corrupt practices to it.

The live performances were coordinated on behalf of the Commission, by the two people earlier mentioned in this article. Reports compiled by the coordinators would form the kernel of part two of this article.

### **CONCLUSION**

Experiments with the use of Community Theatre across the world have proved that it is an efficacious grassroots communication channel. Our experience at Mile 91 was no exception. Through this project the Commission was able to take the messages on the fight against corruption live to not less than ten thousand people and gave them the opportunity to comment on the performance of the Commission, and suggest the way forward.

Encouraged by our successes in Mile 91 and the villages and other settlements where the two plays were performed, the Commission will use this strategy in its out-reach programmes for quite a while.

In November this year, the Commission will host another training workshop in Bo for drama practitioners in the Eastern and Southern Regions. After the series of training workshops, the end products would be video recorded and edited for use in communities across the country through the aid of a mobile film unit. Another very important characteristic of this strategy is that most of the plays could be developed in the community languages – Themne for the North, Mende for the South and East and Krio for the Western Area. Through this approach the masses would identify themselves with the issues raised by the dramas easily. It is also hoped that by 2004 the Commission will start using street theatre to replace its TV soap operas. We can make more impact by taking the messages on the fight against corruption to the mass of the Sierra Leone population through this form of theatre - education through entertainment!

## REPORT A

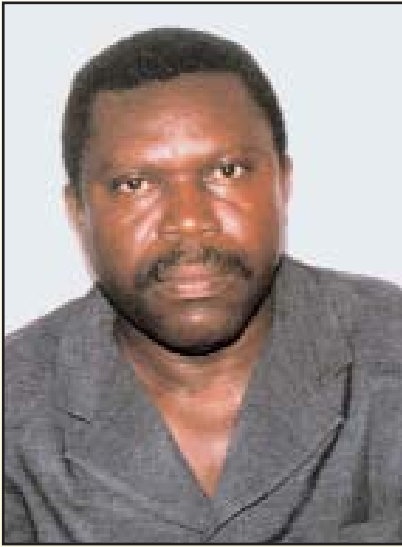
### CORRUPT PRACTICE TODAY

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# APATHY TO CHANGE AND THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION IN SIERRA LEONE



Peter Kenah  
Senior Prevention Officer

**T**he fight against corruption in Sierra Leone is quite an enormous one and make no mistake about it, it needs everybody's involvement. Since Independence in 1961, we have seen many governments come and go, each with its own agenda to fight corruption. We have equally seen the setting up of various Commissions of enquiry all in a bid to bring about systemic change for a better Sierra Leone. Over the years, corruption, both petty and grand, emanates from greasing the palm of an Officer. In the rural areas, traditional leaders and others with authority to govern, still impose untenable fines on their subjects. My experience at the Commission shows that some Ministries and Departments still have a long way to go in terms of change of undesired practices and procedures.

In 1998, I worked for a UNDP Project called 'Awareness Raising'. The rationale for this project was to educate the Sierra Leonean populace on the ills that led to the ten-year old rebel war and the need to change people's negative mindsets and atti-

tudes. Among some of the evils were corruption in high places, bribery, nepotism, 'connectocracy', etc. There has been cry from both within and without from Sierra Leoneans not prepared for a change. Indeed this is quite true as our interventions in some Government Ministries, Departments, and Institutions have proved. We enter these systems and together with the leadership of these institutions put measures in place that could bring about improvements in the overall structure. We tighten the bolts and nuts that would lead to corruption, and we close the loopholes and seepages firm enough to ensure that corrupt practices are minimised. But as soon as we are out of these institutions, the workers revert to their old games. It is sad to hear some people say 'you can't teach old dogs new tricks'.

A good number of Sierra Leoneans still do not believe in change, i.e., any alteration of the status quo. They always want the perpetuation of the old system even where they clearly see the weaknesses in the system. Recently, the Prevention Department took part in the Public Auction at the Queen Elizabeth II Quay in Freetown. Before the commencement of the process, ways of improving on the existing process were mapped out by the various stakeholders, i.e., the Customs and Excise Department, the Ports Authority and the Anti-Corruption Commission. However, even where some of the clientele saw that a fair share of the interested population in the auction benefited from the goods that were auctioned, yet others said 'this is not how previous auctions have been conducted'. The few who used to benefit from the awkward process still wanted to preserve the status quo. Sometime in February 2003, the Prevention Department monitored revenue col-

lection at the Connaught Hospital in Freetown. The one month stay of the Prevention staff in this hospital was seen as undesirable by some revenue collectors and their bosses. One of the Doctors was at one time overheard telling his staff 'you have to bear with them for now, as you know they are here for only one month'. This statement connotes that as soon as the Anti-Corruption Officials go back to their office, they (some of the revenue collectors), will go back to their old tricks.

Both attitudinal and institutional change are sine qua non in the fight against corruption. Sierra Leoneans should be seen to be changing their attitudes if we are to catch up with other nations in development.

Whilst apathy to change has been underscored as a critical element in the fight against corruption in Sierra Leone, silence or carefree attitude continues to gnaw at the heart of the war against corruption. The saying that 'everybody's business is nobody's business' undermines the fight in abating corruption in this small, beautiful and rich country. Public officer, in whatever capacity, caught receiving or giving a bribe should be reported to the Anti-Corruption Commission. The idea of people saying 'nor to mi biznes' is completely against the efforts in fighting corruption. The point I want to make is if we all adopt this negative and carefree attitude, then our success in this fight will be far fetched. The fight against corruption cannot be undertaken by the Anti-Corruption Commission alone. It is a fight that should involve the entire population, be you a Sierra Leonean or not. It is only through everybody's total involvement and the change of our attitude can we hope to realize a Sierra Leone that is free of corruption.

# WILL CORRUPTION BE A THING OF THE PAST?

## INTRODUCTION

When I sit in my quiet moments and ponder my country's future, I simply soothe myself with a traditional saying: 'when the going is getting tough, it is the tough that gets going'. Indeed, the going is getting tough in my motherland Sierra Leone; a land once known as the 'Athens of West Africa', and now transformed into a 'Lions Den' all because of few unpatriotic individuals who wallow into the hollow of corruption.

The term corruption in the Sierra Leonean context is a tired issue. The fact that corruption has messed up the economy and has brought unprecedented and tremendous poverty and under development is no more news. Today, a boy or a girl at nine years knows that corruption is the greatest enemy which stands in the way of every Sierra Leonean and has the potential and propensity to cause more havoc than even the ten years just concluded war. Governments have come and gone with fantastic promises and policies to attack this conspicuous enemy; but what has obtained in the past three decades is a complete reverse or opposite of what these policies or promises entail. The germ of corruption continues to develop very fast and has the tendency to cause more causalities than ever before in this country if the fight against it is not taken as a national concern.

## THE ISSUES

The establishment of the Anti-Corruption Commission in 2000 is a step in the right direction on the part of the Tejan Kabba led Gov-



Mohamed Dumbuya  
Research Officer

ernment. The success of this Commission for the past two years are being assessed by the silent public who objectively and critically examine and determine the performance of the personnel. The comments vary from time to time. Some see the Commission as a lame duck that has done absolutely nothing since its inception. This is the category of people who have preconceived ideas of seeing the Commission championing a cause that has been foretold long ago in the days of Adam and Eve that Sierra Leone will ever remain a corrupt country till dooms day. The other category of people see the Commission as having an outstanding agenda to really combat corruption in this country. But these people after careful study realize that the political will is absent. This category of people have critically examined the modus operandi of the Commission and have come to know the giant strides it has been taking to really actualize its dream. This is a fact and a reality by all indications.

Based on the premise of the latter, one of the strategies to make corruption a thing of the past is by putting faith on the Anti-Corruption Commission. It has

been revealed in this newsletter long ago by Frederick Bobor James in his article 'Two years of Anti-Corruption Commission: Perceptions and Realities' that this nation is in a hurry and will like to see an action oriented type of Commission that will jail corrupt individuals. That is why people report cases of murder, infidelity, maladministration to the Commission thinking that the Commission has a robust, expanded mandate to deal with all these cases.

Apparently, the Commission's mandate is limited to the ACC Act 2000. The Commission should be respected and strengthened by the entire citizenry of this country if we want corruption to be a thing of the past. The Commission has undertaken the giant task of fighting the 'Goliath' (corruption) that has brought this country to its knees. The Commission cannot thrive without a sustained backing and support from the entire citizenry especially the powers that be. There should be a complete turnaround of these unprincipled and unpatriotic individuals who find solace in fleecing the coffers of state and reducing the country to the state of poverty. Negative attitude is one big problem of several people in public offices. Some cannot just do without corruption. Before the rebel war, corruption was institutionalized and some openly pronounced that it is part of the economy, if it is stopped, many homes will suffer. Is this the kind of attitude that we still maintain in the 21st Century when concepts like globalisation, good governance, and human rights reign supreme? I implore you my people that until we change our rugged mentality

that one cannot attain status symbol in Sierra Leone until one is corrupt, then Sierra Leone will soon hit rock bottom and head for the battle of Armageddon.

Will corruption be a thing of the past when variety of press reports unfold rampant corruption in strategic revenue generating areas which undoubtedly are the bread baskets of this country? Although these reports are yet to be investigated to prove their authenticity yet the few that are in the ACC's net are clear pointers to the fact that the Commission has a grotesque task to really minimise corruption in this war-torn country.

Some critical analysts also express concern as to whether the powers that be are really ready to ensure that corruption becomes a thing of the past. Could the powers that be assure this nation that this time around they would energetically, willingly and magnanimously demonstrate the political will to enable the Commission to actually live up to its tasks?

Finally, will corruption be a thing of the past with people having a poor orientation about the dangers of corruption even with ACC Sensitization? Could the Teachers, Lawyers, Businessmen, Technocrats, and the Accountants, promise this nation that in the not too distant future corruption would be a thing of the past? Let us make this a national challenge and aspiration, for the taste of the pudding is in the eating. I have a dream that one day, Sierra Leone will change for the better. It will be a place where our natural resources will be used judiciously for the betterment of the nation. A nation where prosperity blossoms because its Civil Servants are forthright, its Ministers are accountable and transparent, its citizens are highly educated and the pool of intellectuals are patriotic and above all its country ranks high on the human development index.

# OVER THE HORIZON

*Martin Bek Massaquoi*  
*Prevention Officer*

Sitting on the beach of Goderich village alone  
Vainly not vaguely pondering o'er my nation's  
woes.

Plenty possessed, benefit it presents none  
Sweet and lovely people, bitter and sour they  
always look

Deprived and poor, suffering the thrust of  
corruption

Glancing at the horizon on Goderich beach  
The calm of the beautiful sea opens my mind  
Defining corruption becomes a temptation  
To remember what guilt the Act states  
'Soliciting or accepting advantage'  
'Using influence for contracts'  
'Misappropriation of public funds or property'.  
Rightly indeed it happens so!

But why? Oh why?

Abundant resources our nation so acquire  
Yet suffering the people desperately are  
Top bras greedily have all for themselves,  
Crumbs they drop from their full for the rest.

Only, if only the 'cake' can be shared  
Just some from my native Goderich Sea,  
From my little income tax,  
Mineral resources, and all  
A mighty envious nation Salone would be.

## **CHRONOLOGY CONTINUED**

- MAY 12** Prevention Department presented a report of survey on NGO activities in the country at Santano House, Freetown.
- MAY 19** A staff from Prevention Department made a Thematic Presentation at the Truth and Reconciliation Commission on the Management of Mineral Resources and Issues of corruption at YWCA New Hall, Freetown.
- Some staff of Prevention Department participated in the Nation-wide Sensitisation on the FY Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) Budget, Public Expenditure Tracking Survey (PET) and Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP).
- MAY 24 – 31** The Senior Prevention Officer II (Mr. Peter Kenah) attended a seminar on Preventing Fraud and Corruption in London, organised by RIPA International.
- MAY 31 – JUNE 7** Second quarter monitoring visit by CRD staff to Mile 91, Bo, Kenema, Kono and Makeni.
- JUNE 25** The Commissioner, Director and other senior members of Prevention Department participated in a Briefing Session of Female Parliamentarians on the work of the Anti-Corruption Commission since its inception, organised by the National Democratic Institute (NDI) at their Headquarters, Lightfoot Boston Street, Freetown.
- The Director and other members of Prevention Department attended a symposium on Citizenship Education Framework for Sierra Leone at the British Council, organised by the British Council.
- JUNE 27** The Community Relations Department mounted a drama competition for the ACC Integrity Clubs at the YWCA New Hall in Freetown. The participating schools were Sierra Leone Grammar School, St. Helena Secondary School and Government Model Secondary School. St. Helena Secondary School won the first prize.
- JULY 2** The Director and one senior member of Prevention Department presented a draft of recommendations on the Policy Review of the Sierra Leone Government on Grants-in-Aid at the office of the Minister of Education, Science and Technology, New England, Freetown.
- JULY 3** CRD recorded 2 discussion programmes on corruption and the Ministry of Finance.

# ARCOSTIC - ANTI CORRUPTION COMMISSION

By Mrs. Agnes Mason

T-Together as one nation we fight corruption

H-Hope for a better nation is our first priority

E-Everyone must join hands in removing this menace from our country

A-Arising from 10 years of a brutal rebel war

N-Now is the time to rebuild our country

T-Together as one nation we fight corruption

I -In every corner of our society

C-Come out in the open and report corrupt practices

O-Ordinary citizens, civil servants, the public sector

R-Remember, that in a country where corruption's rampant

R-Remember, that in a country where bribery is the order of the day, where

U-Unpatriotic Sierra Leoneans enrich themselves with the country's money

P-Peace will not prevail as the masses are aggrieved

T-Turn away from bribery and corruption those who are guilty

I-Inward discipline and display of honesty in our work

O-Offer more opportunities for progress and development

N-Now that our country is striving for economic development

C-Come to the Commission, their staff are there to receive your reports/complaints

O-Often with some setbacks, which won't make us relent

M-My/our dream is to see a corrupt free society

M-My/our vision is to see the wealth of the country being enjoyed by all

I-In each and every part of the country, wherever you are

S-So, come out now and report a corrupt practice

S-So, come out now if this dream is to be realised

I-If this vision is to be realised

O-On every one in the society is this act entrusted

N-Now that we are enjoying the hard worn peace in our beloved Sierra Leone

# OBITUARY



We regret to announce the death of  
Mrs. Agnes Mason  
which sad event took place on  
Saturday August 9th 2003 at 1.00 p.m.  
Until her death, she was the  
**DIRECTOR OF THE RESEARCH AND  
DEVELOPMENT  
DEPARTMENT.**

May her soul rest in perfect peace