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International Newsletter – November 2007 – Focus on Cameroon

From the Trustees...

Thanks for your comments and encouragement for the first issue of this newsletter, please carry on responding (info@igi-integrity.org). We are a membership organization, driven by you, and we need to hear from you.

This issue focuses on the excellent work done in Cameroon. We shall be focusing on other countries in future issues. Please do let us know plans and achievements of your country's IGI branch or Focal Integrity Team. We are particularly keen to build up a picture of what the various branches plan over the next two or three years so that we can support, coordinate and share best practice.

Election Monitoring in Cameroon



Legislative and municipal elections took place in Cameroon in July this year. IGI Cameroon was one of

the officially recognized election monitoring organizations. The team's assessment was that there were significant shortcomings and the process lacked credibility in some key areas. These areas were documented in the report by leaders of IGI Cameroon, which will shortly be available on the IGI website.

Issues ranged from registration of voters, to lack of clarity of ballot papers, problems with ink, lack of protection of ballot boxes, and possible partiality of some officials. On the other hand, the elections were peaceful, security at polling stations was good and the counting process transparent.

IGI Cameroon has done a very useful service in pioneering election monitoring for IGI, as there are elections coming up shortly in a number of countries, including Kenya and Zimbabwe.

Mobilising Youth in Cameroon

As Stephen Asek of FITCAM reports, young people predominate in Cameroon (72%), as in much of Africa.

Following Stephen's participation in the Pan-African Youth Leadership Forum in Accra, Ghana, in June (reported in the last issue), a Regional Development Seminar was held in October in Limbe, jointly sponsored with TK Foundation. The theme of the seminar was "Development Issues on the African Continent and the Role of Youths as Beneficiaries".

Issues covered included, leadership, unemployment and migration, HIV and mechanisms for governance efficiency assessment in macro-development planning.

Apart from communicating the outcomes of Accra, the Seminar offered valuable opportunities to youth leaders in Cameroon to share experience, work through issues and network with like-minded activists.

IGI Cameroon has a great burden to mobilize young people, to reach their potential rather than becoming apathetic through lack of opportunity, falling into crime or emigrating. A research programme is being developed in these issues.



Zimbabwe Registration Following registration of IGI Kenya (July), IGI Zimbabwe is now also legally recognized.

"Righteous exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people." – Proverbs, 14:34

"Righteousness" means maintaining correct and just relationships. Dishonesty, corruption, and the misuse of power destroy these relationships. How "righteous" is our nation? If I care for my country, what will I do to "exalt" it?