



International Newsletter – August 2008

From the Trustees...

Since the last issue, there have been a number of exciting developments. IGI members have participated in election monitoring in Zimbabwe, the Cameroon FIT is active in putting together several proposals for new projects, and finally, we have opened our new operational headquarters office in Nairobi. Please pray that the financial needs of this vital and growing work will be met – and continue to send us your views: paul@igi-integrity.com or info@igi-integrity.com.

Tips for registering your FIT

IGI works as a civil society organisation in specific countries. This requires credibility with other organisations, professionals and government agencies. So, many FITs (Focal Integrity Teams – local embodiments of IGI) find it vital to register as formal organisations in their own countries.

Benefits vary with legal and social conditions, but typically include:

- The right to operate as a legal entity – to own property and spend money on IGI aims
- Increased credibility
- Tax breaks, for being a non-profit organisation

To see tips for registering your FIT, based on experience in Kenya, Cameroon, Zimbabwe and UK go to the website:

www.igi-integrity.com/Documents/RegistrationTips.pdf

Land reform in Kenya

To understand some of the political issues behind the post-election violence in Kenya, we recommend you read an excellent report by one of our members, Herbert Wamalwa at:

www.igi-integrity.com/Documents/Kenya-LandReform.pdf



Zimbabwe election update

Local IGI members served as election observers in the recent controversial run-off election for the President of Zimbabwe. One of the leaders reports: "In spite of the hostile environment we managed to deploy 15 observers mainly in Matabeleland and greater Bulawayo". They worked alongside a joint faith-based Church Observer mission.

Following allegations of violence and intimidation, Morgan Tsvangirai withdrew from the election, leaving Robert Mugabe unopposed. However, following international outcry, Mugabe and Tsvangirai agreed to talks on power-sharing.

Call for ethical governance by senior African officials

Heads of African public services have agreed on the need for greater accountability and transparency.

Forty delegates from the Commonwealth countries of Cameroon, The Gambia, Ghana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania and Zambia met in Maputo from 8 to 10 July. They identified eradicating corruption as a key area, and noted the importance of strong leadership, accountability and transparency.

"Instilling ethics and values of integrity and good governance should be part and parcel of the culture of the public service because public servants are the trustees of public resources," said Jacqueline Wilson, Director of the Governance and Institutional Development Division at the Commonwealth Secretariat.

For more information see www.igi-integrity.com/Africa.aspx or the Commonwealth website (<http://www.thecommonwealth.org/>).

One area of IGI's work is the training of civil servants to ensure just such values (www.igi-integrity.com/Featured_Reports.aspx)

"The man of integrity walks securely but he who takes crooked paths will be found out" - Prov 10:9