



International Newsletter – May 2019



From the Trustees...

As well as reporting progress, we're very pleased to tell you of a new appointment to strengthen the work in Kenya. In western Cameroon, high levels of violence make things difficult, but we are determined not to let up on good governance, while promoting peaceful forms of activism. Meanwhile, the work continues quietly in Congo and Rwanda, particularly in education. Finally, UK supporters will be pleased to hear we have found a new honorary treasurer – more on that next time. Thank you to those who prayed for and publicized that need!

Don't forget to visit the website www.igi-integrity.com. As always, we're happy to hear from you at paul@igi-integrity.com.



Strengthening anti-corruption in Kenya

IGI Kenya is very pleased to have announce a new Country Director, Litunya Joshua Osaleh, who will manage the Kenyan programmes of IGI, reporting to the IGI-K Board.



Figure 1: Joshua investigating an road project.

Joshua, who has a long connection with IGI, is married, with a young baby, and obtained a degree in Political Science & Public Administration from Moi University, Nairobi before joining the IGI-K staff. His focus will be to strengthen and lead the work of the grassroots Community Taxpayers' Associations and to increase support for IGI in Kenya. He can be contacted at joshua.litunya@igi-integrity.com.

Sakwa, of course, remains as our IGI General Secretary, and a Trustee.

Since his appointment, Joshua has been very active in making contact with CTA members and local public officials.

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Your privacy

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We don't give your data to others, and only use it to inform you of the work of IGI.

There are particular corruption problems with the County administrations in Kenya, to which much of the funding is devolved for infrastructure projects.



Figure 2: Just how are they going to tarmac the road (note the electricity pole)?

One project that IGI-K is investigating is the Salim Road Project (see photos), which has been going on without completion for an inordinate time, and appears to have practically stalled. It is causing huge inconvenience to traders and residents, prompting many complaints. Joshua is working with the Kawangware CTA to get to the bottom of the problems.

Another project under investigation, by a different CTA, is the Chekalini Market, on which six million Kenyan Shillings has been spent, but which only has the most rudimentary buildings, and for which the toilets were even incomplete at time of opening. Where has the money gone?



Figure 3: Toilets at Chekalini Market - hope you're not in a hurry!

CTA members are using both formal and informal means to address corruption through public awareness and sensitization. 'Formal' means using legal means to fight specific cases. Informal, on the other hand, means using burial ceremonies and other informal occasions to communicate to the people about the vice of corruption. So they increasingly develop the capacity of citizens to understand their role in the fight against corruption.

Please pray for...

- Give thanks for the answered prayer in the appointment of Joshua in IGI-K;
- Wisdom for Martin (Congo) and Hilaire (Rwanda) as they plan future work;
- Peace in Anglophone Cameroon, with protection for IGI members and further growth of the work (including to Francophone regions);
- Possible growth of IGI to other countries in Africa (again!).

Keeping up the (peaceful) pressure in Cameroon

The Anglophone area of Cameroon, where IGI is based, continues to be affected by unrest and civil disruption. This is due to the perception that the Anglophone minority (ca. 20% population) is subject to discrimination in what is a primarily French-speaking country. Of course, this does not help the work of IGI.

Nevertheless, the need to fight corruption is not at all reduced. Stephen Asek, Diderot Achouna (IGI Cameroon's Director, Integrity Assurance and Cooperation) and their team are determined not to let up.

Particular highlights since the last newsletter have been

- Governance training for South West Region Pastors: 20th September;
- Involvement in the Programme for Municipality Development: 11-13 September in Douala – which was supported by the German development agency (GIZ);
- The first five-day workshop of Regional Fellowship on Nonviolent Discipline and Democracy (RENOD), March 2019 – which is a vehicle for promoting improved governance using non-violent methods, and is very timely in view of the way in which Anglophone Cameroonians have been taking violent action to express their grievances.

Stephen Asek comments:

“Cameroon is at a crossroad of political and socio-economic reform. At the heart of this crossroad are young people with a strong desire for open society and democratic reform. One of the biggest challenges is how to address structural weaknesses and governance while maintaining a nonviolent discipline and peace culture.



Membership changes in IGI

In the interests of improving the efficiency of our administration, the Trustees have gained the agreement of voting members and the regulator (Charities Commission of England and Wales) to changes in the constitution which remove the two-tier membership structure and the requirements for separate voting members.