



LIBERIA ANTI-CORRUPTION COMMISSION



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Press Statement

LACC GEARS UP FOR NATIONAL ANTI-CORRUPTION CONFERENCE

FEBRUARY 28, 2020 -The Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission (LACC) along with other anti-graft institutions and partners will shortly host a National Anti-Corruption Conference to provide a platform for the Liberian government under President George M. Weah to articulate a renewed vision and political will towards the fight against corruption.

Speaking during the opening session of a two day Technical Working Group Meeting that is planning for the National Conference, the Executive Chairperson of the LACC, Cllr. Ndubusi Nwanbudike emphasized that the LACC is not in a competition with other integrity institutions for a trophy in these endeavors and the Commission will welcome views from various sectors of the society including the integrity institutions.

The Chairperson quantified in terms of dollar value of resources that is lost on corruption where he said about a trillion dollars is wiped away in corruption every year.

He said corruption cuts across all sectors of the society not only public officials citing example of the contaminated milk that passed through several chains at the lower level

The LACC boss informed the opening that he wanted to see a collective approach to the fight and ensure that Liberia meets key corruption indicators.

Heads of various integrity institutions who attended the opening also made remarks. Speaking on behalf of the General Auditing Commission, Auditor General Yusador Gaye noted that a national conference to address corruption was long overdue especially when Liberia is among some of the most corrupt countries in the world.

She also emphasized the need for all integrity institutions to work together ensure that people are held accountable for their actions.

Mr. Anderson Miamen who represented CENTAL called for action on corruption issues in Liberia. He said there was too much talk about corruption with no concrete actions. He made specifically made mention of Liberia's rapid decline on the corruption perception index scores.

Liberia's declined from 2012 with a score of 41 to 28 in 2019.

Miamen spoke of delays in investigating and prosecuting corruption cases and the lack of compliance at all levels of government including the Legislature on assets declaration. He said Liberia is declining in the fight against corruption. He emphasized that the pro-poor agenda will not succeed if corruption is rift. He called for a general change in attitude so that there is not another working session in two years.

For his part, the Head of the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU), Mr. Edwin Harris called for the empowerment of anti-graft institutions and together for the greater good of society.

Representing the Minister of Justice, Atty. Abraham Mitchell, Focal Person, Rule of Law and Transitional Justice at the Ministry of Justice, said that perception issues was mixed with the actual corruption and noted the corruption fight is a process not event.

Also in attendance and making remarks were the Ambassadors of Sweden and ECOWAS as well as representatives for UNDP and the World Bank.

The National Anti-Corruption Conference is expected to take place from April 7-9 in Monrovia.

The Technical Working Group brought together several integrity institutions including the General Auditing Commission (GAC); the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU), LEITI, CENTAL, the Public Procurement and Concessions Commission (PPCC); the Internal Audit Agency (IAA); the Liberia Revenue Authority (LRA), Governance Commission among others.