Parliamentarians all across Africa are becoming involved in the fight against corruption by promoting transparency and public participation through the African Parliamentarians Network Against Corruption (APNAC). The role of parliaments in fighting corruption is essential, as building a culture of oversight and accountability starts with parliamentary activities, and this is especially true of the budgetary process. Challenges remain in the fight to eliminate corruption from the governance activities of African countries, and as such the deepening and widening of APNAC’s reach and activities will become increasingly important.

Efforts being made to strengthen APNAC’s involvement across Africa are beginning to see results. During my visits in February to Uganda and Tanzania with APNAC’s Executive Director Daniel Batidam, the desire to improve anti-corruption measures and build capacity to exercise oversight roles expressed in our meetings with our APNAC partners was impressive. Since the AGM in Lusaka last year, where APNAC’s continental performance and the role of the Secretariat were examined; the success of chapters such as APNAC-Tanzania - which is celebrating its tenth anniversary - and the establishment of an APNAC Secretariat based in Accra signal the progress that is being made. The APNAC Secretariat can now coordinate National Chapter issues and work solely on the extension of the network across the continent.

With new funding available from CIDA for APNAC’s strengthening of its role and activities, the network has a goal to grow its membership over the next two years to establish chapters in North Africa. The APNAC Secretariat should work towards greater cooperation and collaboration with the leadership of parliaments and governments across Africa and develop a strategic plan for the sustainability of the network over the next several years. APNAC’s core values should be developed into a Code of Ethics to help guide member actions and undertakings; and honorary membership to APNAC should be grown at all levels of government to further promote the aims of the network to provide information-sharing opportunities and develop best practices.

I look forward to the implementation of the various programs being undertaken by the Chapters, and the Secretariat’s activities in 2010 and 2011, featured in this issue of APNAC’s quarterly newsletter.

Sincerely,
Hon. Given Lubinda
What is APNAC?

African Parliamentarians Network against Corruption (APNAC) is an organization which aims to coordinate, involve and strengthen the capacities of African parliamentarians to fight corruption and promote good governance. Since its formation in 1999 in Kampala, Uganda during a regional workshop on parliaments and good governance, APNAC has promoted accountability, transparency, and public participation in the processes of government, as the best ways to control corruption. To progress these goals, the participants chose to prioritize the creation of a network to promote information-sharing, by maintaining contacts with one another and reaching out to other parliamentarians and parliamentary organizations throughout Africa, and drawing attention to the issue of corruption.

As the elected representatives of the people, MPs play an essential leadership role in combating corruption. Throughout the legislative process, by taking on oversight and representative roles, MPs can create a legal framework necessary to prevent and curb corruption; oversee the implementation of laws and policies; and constitute an important bridge between the government, and the citizens they represent by embodying a governance culture where transparency, accessibility and accountability are promoted. APNAC’s mandate is promoted by its presence throughout the Eastern, Southern, and Western regions of Africa. National chapters in various parliaments exchange information and best practices not only between chapters but also with other anti-corruption bodies in Africa and around the world.

The main objectives of APNAC are to:

- Build capacity of parliamentarians to exercise oversight roles, especially of financial matters
- Share information on best anti-corruption strategies and practices
- Promote projects to control corruption based on best practices
- Cooperate with other organizations and civil society members with shared objectives

The APNAC Executive

Following the elections of the new APNAC Executive at the AGM in September 2009, the in-coming President Hon. Given Lubinda assured the GM that his executive council would not only work hard towards the achievement of APNAC’s many objectives, but that they would strive to do so with humility and integrity. Hon. Lubinda expressed his confidence that he would receive cooperation from all the national chapters as his executive sought to raise the cause of fighting corruption to new heights. Out-going president, Augustine Ruzindana, congratulated the incoming executive and thanked the founding members of APNAC for their foresight of the importance of the network, and urged all the delegates to keep their vision alive through the maintenance and expansion of APNAC.

**APNAC’S REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES:**

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<th>REGION</th>
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<tr>
<td>EAST AFRICA</td>
<td>Hon. Musikari Kombo, MP</td>
<td>Kenya</td>
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<td>Hon. Dr Zainab Amir Gama, MP</td>
<td>Tanzania</td>
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<td>CENTRAL AFRICA</td>
<td>Hon. Ouchar Tourgoudi, MP</td>
<td>Chad</td>
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<td>Hon. Dr Bouzabo Patchili, MP</td>
<td>Chad</td>
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<td>WEST AFRICA</td>
<td>Hon. Osei Kyei Mensah-Bonsu, MP</td>
<td>Ghana</td>
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<td>Hon. Ndeye Gaye Cissé, MP</td>
<td>Senegal</td>
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<td>SOUTHERN AFRICA</td>
<td>Hon. Eduardo Namburete, MP</td>
<td>Mozambique</td>
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<td>Hon. Jabulani Mangena, MP</td>
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PRESIDENT
Hon. Given Lubinda, Zambia

VICE-PRESIDENT
Hon. Dieudonn Maurice Bonanet
Burkina Faso
APNAC AGM in Lusaka (September 2009)

APNAC Zambia and the Zambian Parliament played host to delegates representing partners from across the network September on the 19th-20th, 2009, for the APNAC annual general meeting. Thirty-seven delegates from 15 countries attended the meeting. The objectives of the AGM were to hold APNAC executive elections, and to discuss and adopt a Memorandum of Understanding between APNAC and the Global Organization of Parliamentarians against Corruption (GOPAC). The AGM also led to the adoption of a newly amended APNAC Constitution.

New APNAC Secretariat

Following consultation with the new APNAC executives, the decision to base the APNAC secretariat within the office of the Parliamentary Centre (PC) in Accra was made. The Secretariat headed by the Executive Director, Daniel Batidam and two supporting staff in PC Accra office and another in PC Ottawa office, work closely with the Executive Committee, providing guidance and input to the network’s programming.

14th International Anti-Corruption Conference (November 10 - 13, 2010)

The 14th IACC, the so-called G8 of anti-corruption conferences, is hosted every two years by Transparency International, and will take place in November 2010 in Thailand.

The conference offers an opportunity for players and actors from all levels of governance to gather and share best practices. As the popularity of the anti-corruption movement grows, so too does the plethora of international agreements and institutions dedicated to fighting corruption. The 14th annual International Anti-corruption Conference which will be hosted in Thailand, aims to draw together various anti-corruption networks and activities.

This year APNAC and GOPAC (www.gopacnetwork.org) have submitted a joint proposal to the conference to host a workshop entitled, “The Practice of Politics and the Challenges that Face African MPs in the Fight against Corruption.” The two organizations will hold panel discussions highlighting the role of their members in the fight against corruption.

For more information, kindly visit the IACC website: http://www.14iacc.org

Staff at the Secretariat. From left to right. Fabrice Fifonsi, Serwaa Brewoo, Given Lubinda, Daniel Batidam
Training of Trainers Workshop (Kampala, April 26 - 28, 2010)

The APNAC Training of Trainers workshop on Anti-Corruption and Parliamentary Oversight of the Budget process was held on 26th – 28th April 2010 in Kampala, Uganda. The training workshop brought together 15 MPs (10 males /5 females) from Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania and Zambia APNAC Chapters.

At the end of the 3 day workshop, participating MPs were trained on basic anti-corruption concepts and best practices as well as oversight of the budget process to enable them become trainers of their fellow MPs in their respective national chapters.

Key highlights of the training workshop included: the need for parliamentarians to support / push their governments to adopt a comprehensive approach to the fight against corruption; the need for the parliamentarians to have access to reliable information without political interference; the role of parliamentarians in promoting and strengthening codes of conduct for public officials and the importance of a close collaboration between parliamentarians, civil society and the media in fighting and preventing corruption.

Participants were provided relevant resource materials to enable them carry out trainings in their respective national Chapters.

Besides the training workshop, participants had the opportunity to pay a familiarization visit to the Parliament of Uganda. The APNAC President and three other country chairs also undertook a public engagement activity by empanelling for a local radio station to educate the public on the activities of APNAC.
APNAC engages in a variety of activities to support its members in their efforts to fight corruption, and the budgetary process is the common underlying theme for this year’s upcoming activities.

Pilot Projects
APNAC is currently implementing several pilot projects with individual chapters in the areas of budget oversight, election financing, and development assistance, codes of conduct, voter education, community outreach, anti-corruption conventions, EITI mechanisms and procurement. The APNAC Secretariat is responsible for handling the finances of pilot projects on behalf of the country chapters. Core partners in the implementation of the pilot projects include, APNAC Chapters of Benin, Ghana, Kenya, Senegal, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia.

Training Workshops
Training is one of APNAC’s fundamental capacity building activities. In-country training workshops are being organized for individual APNAC chapters. Representative MPs from Anglophone and Francophone chapters have been identified to undergo training and become the in-country trainers for their respective chapters, in an effort to reduce costs and reach as many APNAC members as possible. In all, over 20 anti-corruption workshops have been planned for the upcoming financial year because of the reduced implementation costs of training programs.

Chapter Revitalization
It is important for the Network to undertake revitalization efforts following periods of chapter dormancy and/or loss of members following country elections. A recent country visit tour by APNAC’s Chair and Secretariat staff, provided the basis for a new relationship between the chapters and the Secretariat. During its visit to the various country chapters in February 2010, the Secretariat held meetings to discuss individual countries’ pilot projects and fund-raising strategies; the APNAC database; and the Network’s business plan.

Research and Publications
APNAC’s primary objective is to share information on best practices to fight corruption, and the Network will continue to maintain a website, in addition to publishing a quarterly newsletter. The Secretariat’s appointment of a new program officer dedicated to the maintenance of the APNAC website promises to make the Network’s activities more readily available. The quarterly newsletter will continue to provide its readers with regular updates on the anti-corruption activities of the country chapters. The Secretariat and staff of the Parliamentary Centre collaborate on their continuous research into anti-corruption, with the goal of keeping APNAC members abreast to news and policy at the regional and international levels.

APNAC’s upcoming activities include:

Pilot Projects
Training Workshops (Anglophone and Francophone)
Chapter Revitalization

Message from the Secretariat
APNAC is currently implementing several pilot projects with individual chapters in the areas of budget oversight, election financing, development assistance, codes of conduct, voter education, community outreach, anti-corruption conventions, EITI mechanisms and procurement. The APNAC Secretariat is responsible for handling the finances of pilot projects on behalf of the country chapters. The core countries of Benin, Ghana, Kenya, Senegal, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia
APNAC and the Parliamentary Centre have been working closely since the formation of the Network; and in April 2003 the first formal Partnership Agreement was signed by the two organizations to undertake a cooperative initiative to implement the CIDA-backed Africa-Canada Parliamentary Strengthening Program (ACPSP). The project, which ended in 2007, was designed to strengthen accountability, transparency, representational equity, and policy impacts for parliamentary governance in African countries. The Parliamentary Centre’s initial role was to assist in running the network’s secretariat, and the centre provided office space to APNAC in its Nairobi office, until 2007.

In 2009, after a new round of funding became available from CIDA to run the Africa Parliamentary Strengthening Program (APSP), the Parliamentary Centre and APNAC once again partnered for a five-year program. The centre facilitated the opening of an office in Accra, Ghana for the APNAC secretariat; assisted in the recruitment of staff, including the executive director and program staff; and provided continuous advice and support to the APNAC secretariat and program staff. The relationship that the Parliamentary Centre and APNAC have built through these partnerships is expected to last long into the future, even after the network becomes an independent entity. The two organizations’ common goals of improving the capacity of parliaments and improving governance in Africa, will continue to serve as a uniting foundation from which to plan and implement their projects.

As part of the APSP, APNAC will play a special role in addressing corruption issues, especially in relation to the budget process. The first part of fulfilling this role, the establishment of an APNAC Secretariat to coordinate activities and work towards building the network’s long-term sustainability, has already been fulfilled. The APSP will also involve the provision of training to MPs, parliamentary committees and support services, on anti-corruption measures; as well as develop linkages between relevant parliamentary committees and CSOs for enhanced collaboration at key annual intervals. Though APNAC has 19 national chapters at present, the activities will be directed at the chapters of seven core countries; other network countries will be involved where possible and will have access to the tools and instruments developed in the core country activities.
PARLIAMENTARIANS AND CORRUPTION IN AFRICA: The Challenge of Leadership and the Practice of Politics, is a survey conducted in Malawi, Ghana, Sierra Leone, Benin, Mozambique, Zambia and Liberia.

The report compiled on behalf of APNAC, is the first survey of its kind on the attitudes of African parliamentarians towards corruption. The report aimed to investigate the ways corruption impacts directly upon the political behavior and attitudes of the elected members of parliaments across Africa.

The African parliamentarians surveyed for the report were all members of their respective country chapters of APNAC, and so they clearly perceived corruption to be a significant threat to the development of their countries. Yet, it is also apparent that behavioral norms in the politics of their countries, continue to be powerful forces in promoting the widespread acceptance of corruption – regardless of its obvious harm to broader developmental goals.

MPs who participated in the study were asked to list the primary factors which challenge their own probity in their parliamentary roles, and three distinct issues came to the fore:

1. the poor remuneration of MPs;
2. the need to raise resources for electoral campaigns; and
3. the financial demands of constituents.

The study also examined structural impediments that face MPs in tackling corruption, and respondents identified three principal areas of concern in this area as well:

1. The strong executive control over budgetary procedures;
2. the relative weakness of anti-corruption commissions to reign-in governments; and
3. the relative weakness of parliamentary committees to control parliamentary business which is heavily concentrated in the hands of the executive.

Based on the findings, the report makes several recommendations to be adopted in the short-, medium-, and long-term. Parliamentarian education on their role vis-a-vis their constituents; increased support from civil society organizations; strengthening of anti-corruption commissions; and the development of comprehensive strategies to assist in election financing and the local dispersion of funds, were all cited as immediate measures which can be taken on to improve MPs’ capabilities to fight corruption in their respective governments.

Over the long-term, a reversal of behavioral norms by increasing the risks of corruptive behavior, strengthening the independence of local media, and addressing the socio-economic factors which drive so much of African governments’ corruption were recommended by the report’s authors. It is hoped that the development and implementation of immediate and longer term strategies to address the issues identified by MPs in the survey, will incorporate both present and future challenges to create a comprehensive anti-corruption strategy for the region.

The report was analysed and written on behalf of the APNAC and the Parliamentary Centre by Joanne Davies of the African Studies Centre at the University of Oxford, UK.
The Parliamentary Centre in Africa
www.parlcent.ca

The Global Organization Against Corruption (GOPAC)
www.gopacnetwork.org

1. CONTROLLING CORRUPTION: A PARLIAMENTARIAN’S HANDBOOK

2. PARLIAMENTARIANS FIGHTING CORRUPTION A CONCEPTUAL OVERVIEW
   http://www.gopacnetwork.org/Docs/Parl%2020Fighting%20Corruption%20a%20conceptual%20overview%20EN.pdf


4. USING NETWORKS FOR CAPACITY ENHANCEMENT: Lessons from Anticorruption Parliamentary Networks

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