

Africa Public Service Day - 23 June 2018

Letter from the Minister of the Public Service and Administrative Reform To Users of the Public Service

Dear users of the Public Service,

On Saturday 23 June 2018, we are celebrating the 23rd edition of the Africa Public Service Day under the theme: **"Fighting corruption in public institutions with the participation of stakeholders and promoting ethical leadership to attain the objectives of Agenda 2063 and Sustainable Development Goals"**.

You and I have, at least once, been confronted with this scourge which the African Union is calling us to fight against on the occasion of this day dedicated to the Public Service.

In Cameroon, the political will to neutralize this canker is certain and constant. The President of the Republic, H.E Paul Biya, during the Council of Ministers' Meeting of 15 March 2018 reiterated his instructions in that regards on "the need for judicious use of public resources, reduction of public spending and the fight against corruption". The Government under the leadership of the Prime Minister, Head of Government adopted in 2011 the National Anti Corruption Strategy, after ratifying the Merida Convention against Corruption

However, as mentioned by the President of the Republic, "We still have, I should mention, a serious public ethical problem. Despite our efforts to combat them, fraud, embezzlement of public funds, corruption still continue to undermine the foundations of our society". Who has never been confronted in a public service with ridiculous expressions like: *"Where is my motivation, my beer, my Kilichi, my kola nut, my fuel?"*; *"Where is the Gombo?"*; *"Is that what I eat?"*; *"Send me on break"*; *"Where is the boss' fuel?"*; *"What have you brought?"*; *"Mimbo for massa"*; *"Is there tchoko?"* *"Speak well"*.

Besides the important work done on a daily basis in ministries and by anti corruption bodies like the National Anti Corruption Commission (CONAC), the National Financial Investigation Agency (ANIF) and the Anti Corruption Units in ministries, we are all concerned by this unpleasant situation of our Administration.

There are several forms of corruption. Be it active or passive, it involves a corrupter and a corrupted person. If we really want to eradicate corruption, we should consider it as **"everyone's concern"**. Corruption ruins the effort of the nation. Corruption slows development. Corruption aggravates the sufferings of the population,

notably the most vulnerable.

That is the reason why, I would like to ask you, **ladies and gentlemen, users of the Public Service**, to stop encouraging payment for free services by offering bribes before or after a service in a government service. Do not succumb to harassment from corrupt persons. Denounce acts or attempts of corruption of which you are victim or have witnessed. Far from encouraging fanciful denunciation, this call is an exhortation to more vigilance and responsibility. Seek for information and enquiries from the appropriate source. Dare by saying "NO". Our penal code henceforth protects those who denounce acts of corruption.

The devolution of human resource management, streamlining of administrative procedures, drafting and popularization of user's guides, are clear testimony of the will to promote ethics and transparency in the functioning of government institutions.

More specifically, at the level of the Ministry of the Public Service and Administrative Reform, an Anti Corruption Handbook was published and placed online. Furthermore, in the past few months, in order to alleviate your sufferings and provide you with maximum useful information wherever you are, we have redesigned our Web portal (www.minfopra.gov.cm) and in our Regional Delegations, established a special mechanism to welcome users, collect files and inform them.

The ongoing extension of SIGIPES to our Regional Delegations aims at stopping you from undertaking long, difficult and expensive journeys to Yaoundé in order to complete a file or to simply follow-up its evolution. Thus, the civil servant or State employee living in Akwaya in the South-West Region, will henceforth be provided with all useful information and even the required documentation on the spot in Buea; they will, therefore, not be obliged anymore to come right up to the central services. Apart from Buea, Bertoua in the East Region, Douala in the Littoral Region and Ebolowa in the South Region are already equipped with SIGIPES. All our ten Regions shall be equipped with this tool in the nearest future.

These efforts of communication are the expression of our will to listen to you and to be at your service. Henceforth, at "MINFOPRA THE USER IS KING". It is with this in mind that the e-mail addresses: joseph.le@minfopra.gov.cm



and clcminfopra@gmail.com were created and widely spread to those of you who remain dissatisfied with our services.

Dear Public Service users,

It is with humility that we acknowledge that we still have a long way to go, but we reassure you of our total devotion to this task and full commitment to give you satisfaction. This is a requirement that is constantly reiterated by the President of the Republic, H.E Paul Biya, so that the Cameroonian Public Administration remains a development driving force of our country and serves the public interest. It is true that the involvement of everyone in this ideal of efficiency, exemplarity, modernity and simplification of our administrative machinery cannot be automatically achieved, but we will show firmness towards those of us who persist in their waywardness as well as those of you who incite them.

I hope that the implementation of this new impetus, which places MINFOPRA's users and thus, all State employees and their rightful claimants at the center of our concerns, will be done with the collaboration of everyone; ministries, partners and especially public service users, from whom we are expecting suggestions and constructive criticisms to forge our way on the right path.

Joseph LE
Minister of the Public Service and
Administrative Reform