

**INTERFAITH SHAPING HEARTS, ATTITUDES AND MINDSET TO END CORRUPTION  
IN GHANA (I-SHAME CORRUPTION IN GHANA) PROJECT**

**NATIONAL MEDIA BRIEFING: 10<sup>TH</sup> APRIL, 2019**



Madam Chairperson

Representatives of Partner Agencies of Government; National Commission for Civic Education and the Ghana Education Service

Facilitators

Invited Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Media

A hearty welcome to you all! I welcome you on behalf of the Secretary General of the National Catholic Secretariat, whose facilities are always at our disposal. I also welcome you on behalf of our Interfaith Alliance – the **Forum for Actions on Inclusion, Transparency and Harmony (FAITH) in Ghana** which is the Platform under which the **I-SHAME CORRUPTION IN GHANA** Project is being implemented.

By now, you are all familiar with this acronym **I-SHAME CORRUPTION** which stands for **Interfaith Shaping Hearts, Attitudes and Mindset to End Corruption** in Ghana. This project initiative is aimed at creating a new Ghanaian in today's children with character formation that develops values for good citizenship.

The **FAITH in Ghana** Alliance is pursuing this agenda through the School Integrity Clubs, in active collaboration with the Ghana Education Service and the National Commission for Civic Education. We are also relying on and proactively engaging you the media to help amplify our voices and other civic voices against corruption in our society.

Ladies and Gentlemen of the media, I am happy to report that we continue to make some progress in our endeavor to weed out endemic corruption in our society. Since our last encounter with you in early February this year (2019), we have been able to hold interactive discussion sessions between members of the Integrity Clubs in six out of the ten old Regions in Ghana. Note that the project's coverage was based on the previous regions. This coverage was made possible by the active collaboration with the Regional Directors of the National Commission for Civic Education, which we very much appreciate. These regional discussion sessions were principally intended to assess learning outcomes of the school pupils who are members of the Anti-Corruption Clubs in the participating schools. By conducting these quarterly assessments, we also get to know how the teachers who we trained as Club Coordinators are performing in terms of facilitating the pupils' learning and reformation. Finally, through these assessment forums, the pupils are given the opportunity to engage the general public as the media and other stakeholders are always in attendance. We are satisfied by the results achieved in this quarter in all the purposes outlined.

Madam Chair, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Media. I will like to share just two key messages from the pupils at the interactive sessions so far held. The first is that **Corruption is hurting children disproportionately and they are very much aware of this**. In all the sessions, the children spoke eloquently and passionately about how they are being denied their basic entitlements for learning like decent classrooms, adequate furniture, textbooks, required contact hours for teaching and learning and regular daily rations of food under the Ghana School Feeding Programme. It was therefore no surprise to me when I read the recent research

report of the Africa Union titled **“Stolen Futures”** on the impact of corruption on children in Africa. The **“Stolen Futures”** Study opens with the following emphatic statement: **“Corruption – the abuse of entrusted power for private gain – is pervasive and one of the biggest barriers to Africa’s development and the full realization of children’s rights”**. As Faith-Based Organizations, we are gravely concerned about the disproportionate impact of corruption on children, the poor and the vulnerable; but our conviction to tackle this canker with the involvement of children has been vindicated.

The second key message from the sessions is that **the filth that is gradually drowning the country from poor sanitation and careless waste management is the result of corruption**. I was stunned at how school children pointed to acts of negligence of Local Government Authorities in waste management, including Waste Bins left to the mercy of weather in District Assembly premises instead of being put to good use. They also spoke about the wanton logging of rare tree species like the Rose Wood in Northern Ghana. For children to be establishing such a clear link between corruption and Environmental degradation and pollution in Ghana today, is a moral call to action.

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Media, there is much more than I can share from the interactive sessions with the children on corruption at this briefing. Let me just say that the voices and perspectives of children matter in national development. We must make conscious efforts to hear them without finding excuses. I encourage the media to follow closely the remaining quarterly regional sessions with the children so that we can help amplify their voices and concerns about corruption.

Madam Chair, Ladies and Gentlemen. I cannot fail to acknowledge the recent passage of the Right to Information (RTI) Bill as yet again another leverage in the fight against corruption. We have also learned, in the journey of the RTI Bill in Ghana, that civic pressure and persistence ultimately pay off in policy reform. We in the **FAITH Alliance** welcome this watershed development in Ghana’s public policy space. Public Agencies do not have to wait for budgetary allocations before doing something about the dawn of this new era and reality of the Right to Information. We can at least start refining our attitudes and mindset towards openness while abandoning our propensity for opacity in public service.



In conclusion, I wish to thank our collaborating partners – the Ghana Education Service, National Commission for Civic Education and the Interfaith Cooperation Members. I also thank STAR Ghana for supporting this project initiative.

Thank you all, Ladies and Gentlemen.

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