

May 3, 2006 Wednesday

Cameroon; HIPC : **Transparency International** For Rigorous Management

BYLINE: Cameroon Tribune

LENGTH: 441 words

The President of **Transparency International**, Hughette Labelle recommends independence for anti-corruption institutions. The visiting President of **Transparency International**, Hughette Labelle yesterday, May 2 granted a press conference in Yaounde during which he lauded the rigorous management of public resources, whose immediate outcome is Cameroon's admission into the completion point of the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative. Hughette Labelle granted the press conference after having held high-level discussions with the Prime Minister, Ephraim Inoni, the Vice Prime Minister, Minister of Justice and Keeper of the Seals, Amadou Ali and the Minister of State, Secretary General at the Presidency, Jean Marie Atangana Mebara. She was accompanied throughout by the Vice President of **Transparency International**, Barrister Akere Muna. During her opening declaration, the **Transparency International** boss said she was currently visiting the organisation's sections worldwide since her election in November 2005. She rejoiced that her visit to Cameroon coincided with the country's admission into the completion point of HIPC initiative. She therefore advised that this should be a starting point of more rigour and transparency in managing public resources to fight against poverty and ensure the wellbeing of the population. Hughette Labelle also expressed happiness at the current anti-corruption crusade in the country. She noted with satisfaction the creation of anti-corruption and transparency-oriented institutions such as the National Anti-corruption Commission, the Audit Bench of the Supreme Court, the National Financial Investigation Agency (ANIF) and the recently promulgated law on the declaration of assets and property. **Transparency International**, she said was supportive of government efforts to ensure the transparent management of public funds, ensure good governance and stamp out corruption. For her, the government efforts can be translated into concrete reality by giving the anti-corruption institutions more financial resources to enable them function in an independent manner. Hughette Labelle also recommended that the judiciary be reinforced not only to ensure that embezzled money stocked in foreign banks is repatriated but also attract investors. According to the **Transparency International** President, the government has to intensify the current anti-corruption crusade, render the State revenue accessible to the population for proper control. Cameroon, she said signed the UN Convention against corruption and it will be proper for the country to sign the same convention binding African Union countries.