

# NEWSLETTER 12 /2009



African Institute Of Corporate Citizenship  
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Matthias Seeler

## Introduction

Dear Members,

This is our first newsletter in this year. We hope to give you valuable information on our joint fight against corruption. At the same time, I would like to take the opportunity and introduce myself to you:

My name is Matthias Seeler and I'm the new program manager of the Malawian 'Business Action Against Corruption' (BAAC), which is run by the 'African Institute for Corporate Citizenship' (AICC). I started working in August on a two years contract. I'm a 45 year old German and studied on Business Administration and Vocational Education with special focus on Business Ethics. Probably most important, I'm an owner manager of a German company. Therefore, I think I have an understanding of the problems and conflicts you have to face in your day to day business.

If you have any questions on business ethics and anti corruption, don't hesitate to contact me. Phone: 01 775 787/691 or mobile: 0888300673. Email: [jm.seeler@t-online.de](mailto:jm.seeler@t-online.de)



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## **What can you expect from the Business Action Against Corruption?**

### **Face-to-face consultations with BAAC member companies**

At the moment BAAC is reorganizing its activities. It aims to provide you with more valuable services. Consequently BAAC's approach now includes face-to-face consultations. It started with some of our member companies in Lilongwe; however, it is intended to expand it to all our members. If you would like to run a corruption risk assessment in your organization or if you have any issues in the field of business ethics which you would like to discuss, please don't hesitate to contact BAAC. Phone: 01 775 787/691

### **Cooperation with the Anti Corruption Bureau**

Furthermore, BAAC intensified contacts with the Anti-Corruption-Bureau. At the moment facilitation of the content of the 'National Anti Corruption Strategy' (NACS) is in the focus. Currently BAAC is planning a Business Symposium which is scheduled for late January. In it the 'National Anti Corruption Strategy' will be unpacked and explained. Thus, business leaders will become aware of sufficient actions to take in order to put the NACS into practice.

### **Linking BAAC's member companies with the Anti Corruption Bureau**

BAAC also started to collect business' concern with respects to corruption and fraud in relationships with the public sector. As learnt from the fist discussions with some of our members, there are a lot of issues which should be addressed. However, if a company would do this on its own, competitive disadvantages might be the result. Consequently, BAAC offers to confidentially collect such problems of our member firms. BAAC will then present the issues without naming the company and its



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representative to the Anti Corruption Bureau. This procedure aims at supporting BAAC's collective approach, in that member companies are speaking with one voice to the relevant authorities. Therefore, if there are issues which you would like to address, just contact the BAAC. Phone: 01 775 787/691.

## Ethics Officer Training in Mangochi, 09<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> November 2009



Work atmosphere at the Ethics Officer Training, November 2009

Like before, it is one of the main purposes of the BAAC to facilitate trainings to management and staff of its member companies. Recently, an Ethics-Officer-Training for nominated persons from our network was conducted. The venue - Sun'n'Sand - was



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chosen to allow participants to concentrate on this intensive course. Like in 2008, the 'Ethics Institute South Africa' facilitated the demanding content.

With this high level organization and its qualified trainers participants had a rewarding and exciting learning experience. AICC and the 'Business Action Against Corruption' would like to thank

- Ethics SA for facilitation
- participants for their valuable and active contribution
- member companies of the BAAC for sending such motivated employees
- GTZ for funding this event and
- the DED for providing additional support.



Participants of the Ethics Officer Training November 2009



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Participants are now required to write a practicum (a written assignment) in order to achieve the acknowledged title of a certified 'Ethics Officer'. BAAC kindly asks all its member companies to support and encourage your nominated employees in their efforts to write up this paper. There is a time limit; therefore, all participants have to submit the assignment no later than the 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2010.

BAAC also encourages all participants: Write your practicum even if it is demanding to do so while having your daily work to be done! However, you have already passed half-way to this valuable certificate. So, don't stop at this point, just write it up. It will further your career and it will enable you to contribute to your companies' achievements. Should you have any questions upon writing the practicum, feel free to contact Matthias Seeler at any time. Phone: 0888300673 or 01 775 787/691

### Final comments

You have seen AICC and the 'Business Action Against Corruption' are trying to enrich our services. Remember that we are our member companies' secretariat! Therefore, if you have comments and recommendations, please let us know. And if you need advice on issues of business ethics and anti-corruption, just call us.

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Comment of the Head of AICC, Daisy Kambalame



Daisy Kambalame

Dear Members of the BAAC,

As a collective action program the 'Business Action Against Corruption' (BAAC) in Malawi is really in a class of its own and unique. We at the secretariat are all encouraged to note that the efforts made by the private sector in Malawi will be recognized far and wide through our newsletter. We are excited to finally have Mathias join our team his passion and commitment to see the secretariat provide valuable input to our members will strengthen our network. I hope that the members will use this newsletter not only as a source of information but to also share their experience in implementing good anti corruption policies. This we believe will assist in developing a good transparency culture in Malawi. Therefore, if you think you have interesting information in the fields described, just let us know. We'll be happy to include your article or your ideas in one of the following issues.

Kind regards

Daisy Kambalame

Head of the AICC Malawi

*Remember: If we want to improve Malawi's business environment, there is nothing but a collective action that promises success.*