

COFAA Audit Commission

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Majesty TANYI Robinson
Princess Julie KONGO
Majesty Suanu Baridam - Secretary / Rapporteur (commission of inquiry)

Person audited: His Majesty Tchiffi Zié:

Subject: Written explanations with supporting documents for all financial transactions / expenses relating to the Addis Ababa summit from February 14 to 16, 2020.

Introduction :

“None of us, by acting alone, can achieve success because what matters is not the individuals but the collective”
Nelson Mandela.

To his Majesty Tchiffi Zié:

From February 14 to 16, 2020, the Extraordinary Summit of African Sovereigns and Traditional Leaders was held in Addis Ababa, which was one of your initiatives. This summit enabled the establishment of a platform for reflection: the Organizing Commission of the Federation of Associations of Traditional and Customary Authorities of Africa, in short ‘COFAA’. This platform has several objectives including:

- Federate the NGOs or the various associations within which, most of the chiefs and traditional leaders, each militate in its geographical area.
- Support the African Union, Regional and International Organizations, in the fight against insecurity and terrorism and, have a common position of the customary and traditional authority of Africa in the face of conflicts, crises and wars that undermine the Continent.
- The appointment of the new Commissioner General of the 6th region, in the person of His Excellency Mr KATEBE KATOTO Raphaël.

Preparation and management of the Summit:

We were all surprised by the urgency and the haste in which this summit was organized (end of January, beginning of February). The summit was initially to be held on the sidelines of the Extraordinary Summit of African Heads of State in Addis ABEBA on February 9, 10, 11 and which was postponed by a few days (from February 14 to 16).

This haste and the organization of this summit, to leave a feeling of frustration, disappointment and above all a taste of unfinished business, all resulted in the most opaque and catastrophic financial management.

After the Addis Ababa:

summit Once back from this summit, we witnessed some of the most humiliating shows. Some were disappointed with King Tchiffi Zié's promise to travel to Addis Ababa on their own and that they would be reimbursed once there. This has not been the case until now, hence the anger and retaliation that followed and which left us speechless. All the participants realized that abnormal things had happened there and that suspicions of misappropriation of allocated funds needed to be clarified.

Summit Fund Management:

Against all expectations, we had all noticed that His Majesty Tchiffi Zié, initiator of this summit, complained about having been “scammed” and that he was in the process of repaying debts, generated during this summit, which the promise of funding that had been made to it had not been kept. He must therefore “take responsibility for it”, he said.

But where did the money come from that allowed a 50-person delegation to be in Addis Ababa, fed, housed, and held its summit at the Intercontinental Hotel in Addis Ababa?
We would like to know.

We subsequently learn that Mr Katebe, appointed commissioner general of the 6th region, was the one who financed this summit with his own funds. It is therefore not King Tchiffi Zié who financed this summit. In addition, he would have received the sum of fourteen thousand nine hundred euros (€ 14,900) from Mr KATEBE, for personal use. We subsequently learn that King Tchiffi Zié certifies that he did not receive from Mr KATEBE the hundred thousand euros (100,000 €) of the estimated budget, which he would have submitted to him.

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King Tchiffi Zié would have asked Mr. KATEBE to transfer this sum (100,000 €) to his personal account, which Mr. KATEBE would have refused by affirming, that he was in charge of the organization and the stay of the guests in Addis and that it would be his assistant, who would be in charge of the basic disbursements as and when required.

Hearing of King Tchiffi Zié and His Excellency Raphaël KATEBE KATOTO:

Do we not often say that "deceptive peace harms more than open war"? The traditional leaders and chiefs present in Addis Ababa, seeing themselves splashed by this affair, are surprised by the words of King TCHIFFI ZIE who claims to have been "ripped off".

Consequently the fact of recognizing that he received € 14900 from Mr KATEBE, without having informed his fellow Kings and that he never communicated on the provisional budget of € 100,000 that Mr KATEBE had to transfer to his personal account. .. that is too much unspoken and inconsistency that must be clarified by having the version of each of the parts.

Saturday July 11, 2020, Audition of King Tchiffi :

The commission made up of the Kings of Ghana, Nigeria, Congo, Cameroon, South Africa, heard from King Tchiffi Zié. The latter reaffirmed in front of the whole assembly, that he was "ripped off" by Mr KATEBE and that he would still be reimbursing on his own account, certain expenses not honored in Addis Ababa. Surprised and taken aback, the traditional chiefs also wished to hear the version of Mr KATEBE.

Thursday July 16, 2020, Hearing of His Excellency KATEBE:

The commission composed of the same Kings, heard Mr. KATEBE. It was with dismay that the commission learned that the summit was funded entirely by Mr KATEBE. He would have been lured into a sort of ambush, by Mr David KATALAY and King TCHIFFI ZIÉ, to participate in a summit on peace in Congo, which filially became a summit of chiefs and traditional leaders and that of guest at the in Addis Ababa, he became its sponsor. In the end, according to the report of Mr KATEBE's assistant, the organization of this ADDIS ABEBA summit would have cost one hundred and eight thousand seven hundred and thirty-eight euros (108,738 €), not to mention the 14,900 € that King Tchiffi had already perceived.

Creation of an AUDIT commission:

The traditional chiefs and leaders, taken aback and stunned by all this information, decided, during the last Zoom conference, to set up an audit commission. This Commission, composed of Her Majesty Suanu BARIDAM, Her Majesty TANYI Robinson and Princess Julie KONGO, asks Tchiffi ZIÉ to provide, by Wednesday 05 August 2020 at the latest, written explanations with supporting documents for all financial transactions / expenses carried out by him in connection with this summit.

Measures to be taken in the event of non-conformance of information:

In principle, His Majesty Tchiffi Zié, steeped in a suspicion of financial mismanagement, should have been dismissed from his post while the investigation was in progress and the commission decided on his responsibilities.

It should therefore be noted that on view:

- the inability of the head of traditional leaders to be transparent in the management of funds,
- of his inability to respect ethics and the good governance which must govern his function,
- of its inability to promote and be the guarantor of our habits and customs,
- if it were found that the information requested of him is insufficient, does not arrive on time and is not likely to convince the commission, a disciplinary sanction would be taken against His Majesty Tchiffi zié. The commission will decide.

Done on August 04, 2020 Majesty Suanu Baridam Secretary / Rapporteur