

## **STATEMENT BY MUSA HASSAN BILTY ON THE PWC FORENSIC AUDIT OF CAF**

In early 2019, as part of the Executive committee (Exco) of CAF, after several communications to my colleagues citing mismanagement and financial improprieties, and based on a motion tabled by then Exco member, Leo Tenga of Tanzania, we took the unprecedented decision to ask for an independent forensic audit of the books and processes of CAF.

Signs that things were not in order came in the form of the unilateral sackings of CAF secretariat personnel, including but not limited to the CAF General-Secretary at the time and later the Finance Director, from their roles in unclear circumstances..

I have today been accorded the privilege of perusing the full PWC audit report for the period 2017 – 2019, which would essentially cover the period since a new dispensation was elected to lead CAF.

The audit report also appears to have formed the basis of comments attributed to FIFA President Gianni Infantino about the complete lack of football development in the face of massive injection of funds into CAF.

I have been left shocked and dismayed, though my fears have now been vindicated, that the financial dealings in CAF for this period can only be compared to crimes against humanity.

The audit report shows that expenditures of tens of million of Dollars were incurred without any supporting documents and largely in cash.

Expenditure was incurred to pay for expenses of wives of CAF officials, funerals of family members and even a wedding of a daughter of a top CAF Exco official.

The audit report, self-explanatory to anyone who reads shows manifest crime, money-laundering, theft, destruction of official supporting documents to cover their audit trail and abuse of office.

How the top 5 officials of CAF (with the exception of ousted Nigeria FA President Amaju Pinnick) continue to hold on to office, in the presence of a FIFA Ethics committee or a criminal justice system, baffles me to no end.

This daylight robbery of CAFs and Africans football future happened despite the presence of active audit and compliance committee and Finance committee.

It would also explain why the CAF statutes were ignored in calling for the Ordinary General Assembly of July 2019, and the absence of the CAF audited accounts being circulated 30 days prior, as per statute.

Many will acknowledge that it is impossible to hide expenditures in tens of million hole in the accounts of any organization, and it is my firm belief that CAF General Assembly may have perpetrated a crime and dereliction of duty by accepting for such accounts to be brought before it in such a casual manner.

All eyes are now on FIFA and its President Gianni Infantino, whose own credibility is now in question considering the inordinate amount of time he spends in Africa, that he allowed his trusted lieutenants and members of the FIFA Council to blatantly loot the organization, while they happily paid him lip service.

History will remember how Infantino went out of his way to use FIFA and it's organs to protect the same people who have now slit the wrists of the African game, and which now hemorrhages massively of its hard-earned money.

Has FIFA now realized the error of its Africa strategy and the proverbial "placing the fox inside the chicken coop?"

Then why isn't FIFA acting on the outcome of the said audit?

We now understand the reason that the GD (Fatma Samoura) moved with speed to kill-off the over-reliance of cash expenditure at CAF, because it created a huge loophole that these unscrupulous individuals could exploit.

It also explains why there was such high level vehemence within the same CAF that cheered the arrival of the GD, against her continued stay in CAF at the Exco meeting last weekend in Sale, Morocco.

The GD had clearly touched an extremely raw nerve.

It is in this light that I urge FIFA to publish this audit in its entirety and take appropriate action where necessary. The cover up must stop now for the sake of AFRICA, the continent that Infantino claims to love so very much.

FIFA has absolutely no reason not to release the audit findings for the World to see and to justify his claims of corruption in the African Confederation.

**MUSA HASSAN BILITY**

**7<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2020**