

Press Release on Three Issues Shaking Public Opinion

The Moroccan Association for Combating Corruption, Transparency Morocco, is deeply concerned about three major issues currently shaking public opinion: unprecedented personal data breaches from key public institutions, the mismanagement of public funds in meat importation with no price reduction, and the illegal demolition of citizens' homes in several Moroccan cities, violating established laws.

1. Cyberattacks and Data Breaches

Cyberattacks have resulted in widespread leaks of critical personal data from various government agencies, including the Ministry of Employment and the National Social Security Fund (CNSS). These leaks could destabilize and threaten social and national peace, as the Constitution guarantees the protection of personal data, regulated under Law 09-08 regarding the security of individuals in processing personal data. This blatant disregard for constitutional and legal obligations raises serious concerns about potentially exposing even more confidential data, putting individuals and groups at further risk of hacking.

The Association condemns the inappropriate communication strategies of the concerned institutions. Instead of reassuring and apologizing to the insured citizens and businesses, these institutions chose to threaten and intimidate them, while the ministers responsible for overseeing these bodies have failed to make any statements. Therefore, Transparency Morocco demands:

- I. Public disclosure of the public authorities' strategy regarding the security of information systems, personal data protection, national security, and the entities responsible for evaluating the outcomes of bodies like the National Commission for the Protection of Personal Data and the General Directorate for Information Systems Security. These bodies should oversee public and, occasionally, private organizations in matters of sensitive data in accordance with Laws 09-08 and 05-20, and regularly report on their activities and any resulting penalties.
- II. Disclosure of the individuals responsible for allowing service providers to offer consulting, assistance, training, software sales, security hardware services, and auditing tasks constitutes a clear conflict of interest.
- III. Determination of the maximum permissible salary gap between the highest and lowest wages in both public and private sectors, in line with international standards for good governance.
- IV. The results of Tender No. 15/2021, issued in August 2021, regarding the support for CNSS in complying with Law 09-08, which should have been published on the CNSS website as required by law.
- V. Opening of a judicial investigation by the Public Prosecutor's Office and forming a parliamentary committee to investigate the facts and assign responsibilities in light of this unprecedented data breach in terms of scale and sensitivity.

2. Government Meat Importation Subsidies

The Association is also closely following the government's decision to subsidize the importation of cattle and sheep to reduce meat prices and the cost of sacrificial animals. A budget of 13.3 billion dirhams was allocated to this initiative, yet consumer prices have not dropped. According to the Association's observations, government statements, and media reports, this process has been tainted by numerous irregularities, with some individuals benefiting from leaked information before the official decree being issued. This constitutes insider trading, or the illegal use of confidential information for personal gain.

The Association calls for complete transparency regarding the conditions for receiving subsidies for cattle and sheep imports, the actions to be taken to recover the misallocated funds, the identification of those responsible for this mismanagement, and an inquiry into the identified dysfunctions. The Association is also puzzled by the refusal of the majority parties to form a parliamentary investigation committee as part of their legislative oversight responsibility to uncover the truth behind these events. The Association urges the competent judicial authorities to take appropriate action.

3. Destruction of Homes in Various Moroccan Cities

The Association is also deeply concerned about the destruction of homes in several Moroccan cities, particularly in the Old Medina of Casablanca and in Rabat's Douar El Asker. These demolitions occurred during the school year and just before Ramadan. Many affected residents were relocated to remote areas around Tamesna and Ain Aouda. Residents were also intimidated and pressured to sell their homes in the Ocean district (Al Moheet) to unidentified buyers at arbitrary prices. Additionally, tenants were coerced into vacating their homes without following legal eviction procedures, under the pretext of "implementing the city's urban planning plan to make it more attractive to residents and visitors."

This behavior was not applied to land owned by prominent figures, Moroccan and foreign companies, or other countries, where expropriation laws were used to justify expanding roads in the city. This raises serious concerns about the double standards applied in the process. These demolitions were preceded by the destruction of apartments in Temara in 2022 and have since spread to Casablanca, often in violation of the law, particularly in the Old Medina, without providing fair compensation to the affected citizens.

In response, the Association demands that public authorities clarify the application of double standards in enforcing the law, ensuring that both the elite and ordinary citizens are treated equally in city beautification and road expansion projects.

The Association also calls for the government to publish the results of the investigations into these critical national matters with full transparency, to benefit all concerned parties.

Rabat, April 21, 2025
The Executive Board