

TRAORE'S BUDGET SPEECH DECRIES CORRUPTION

AB061106 Bamako Domestic Service in French 1500 GMT 5 Dec 81

[Closing speech by Malian President Moussa Traore in Bamako on Saturday to the joint budgetary session of the government, Central Executive Bureau and the National Union of Malian Workers -- recorded]

[Excerpts] We have just ended the 1982 budgetary session and each of us has approached it with a high sense of responsibility in accordance with the realities of the time. It is my duty now to give you my impression on this session. And I will, first of all, emphasize this: Mali's budgetary problem is in the final analysis not so much a problem of figures but a problem of loyalty -- loyalty toward the state and nation, loyalty toward ourselves. What, in fact, is really happening? We cannot help but note that however conscientiously we devise figures to match our economic realities, people operating in the economic sector of the country will do everything to make these figures turn out to be false.

Which people operating in the economic sector am I talking about? I mean, first of all, these speculators -- I repeat, speculators -- because we cannot call them otherwise. They base their hopes of getting rich on illegal profits acquired with the complicity of public servants through customs and excise operations, calculation of taxes, administrative control, delivery of administrative documents and even while delivering the smallest public service.

I am also talking about those state officials of the public administration and state sectors who have become agents against the state -- officials who have acquired special customers who encourage corruption and place their private interests above their administrative duties because they are so engaged in the mad race for money.

This shows how serious and alarming the situation has become. More than ever, we need an awakening of the conscience, a radical change of behavior and mentality to recover state loans in order to remedy the weaknesses in the economy and to repair the abnormal insufficiency of budget facilities.

The only real solution to our budgetary problems is at this price. Let us all together do everything possible to ensure the correct execution of the 1982 budget which we have just adopted and, in which, according to the minister of finance, we want to reflect as faithfully as possible our realities. We have no choice but to make it work. Thank you. The session is closed. [applause]