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CORRUPTION

Definition of corruption

Corruption is the solicitation, receiving or agreeing to receive, giving, promising or offering any gratification as an inducement or reward to a person to do or forbear to do any act with a corrupt intention. Or behaviors on the part of officials in the public sector, whether politicians or civil servants, in which they improperly and unlawfully enrich themselves, or those close to them, by the misuse of the public power entrusted to them.

Forms of corruption:

- i) **Petty corruption** involves people and means at lower scale and rates, however frequent. This entails offering of small sums of money in order to get small services performed in a speedy fashion in essence, paying extra over the required amount or for services that are supposed to be free to the public. Example of this is bribes in rendering social services, kickbacks given to the police, licensing officers, magistrates, doctors and clerks; sex demanded from employment seekers and political positions.

ii) **Grand corruption** involves big or massive transactions through, among others, contracts and concessions. It can be in construction, huge purchase, provisions and mining. It takes the form of skewed investment decisions that work for personal gain; transfers of cash money from public to private investors; illegitimate tax exemptions, tax holidays, ghost projects (in which money is received but the intended construction never happens) and money laundering. This type of corruption often occurs at the highest level of the establishment.

The following are the elements of corruption that are classified under the two major forms; petty and grand corruption.

- **State capture:** where large firms influence the laws, policies and regulations of the state to work to their advantage by providing illicit private gains to public officials.
- **Kleptocracy:** obsessive impulse to steal regardless of the economic needs. This is popularly known as Mobutu – Bokassa corruption. Milking dry state coffers and stashing away in overseas accounts funds equivalent to 5 up to 10% of the country's annual budget.
- **Political corruption:** behavior which violates and undermines the norms of the system of public order and subverts democracy. It includes buying voters support during elections; (takrima) for influence and political support and direct bribing of Government official through the process of administration and governance.

The Warioba commission report distinguished between petty corruption caused by need and grand corruption caused by greed,

although it made it clear that both these forms of corruption were result of fundamental failure of the administrative and political system to impose controls and enforce discipline.

Causes of Corruption in Tanzania:-

The absence of transparency where there is no transparency in the government institution. Where tasks and functions are conducted in secret and are not open to examination by other government officers or the public, the opportunity for corruption increases.

Transparency is a prerequisite for democracy in which sovereignty is vested in the people and conduct of civil servant must be open to the examination.

Range of discretion in the government officials, no system can exist unless one person or authority is used to some extent to make decisions. Such a person is said to have the power to exercise discretion. The freedom to act within certain limits. Corruption takes place in the government institutions where public officials, have great authority and can exercise discretion irrespective to interpretation and application of regulations.

This can be demonstrated by a corruption scandal of 2008.

“Following investigations then Prime Minister and other two Ministers were forced to resign in February 2008. Their resignations, which triggered the dissolution of the entire Cabinet were due to their involvement in granting a large contract to an American based Company in which they had personal interest”

Corruption is attitudes or circumstances that make average people disregard the law. People may try to get around laws of the government they consider illegitimate, for example not to pay taxes. Poverty or scarcity of goods such as medicine may also push people to live outside the law. So corruption is not just about ethics, it is also about how the government is set up and managed.

The absence of committed watch dog institutions, the absence of internal and external institutions that investigate cases of corruption or that act on complaints related to corruption. Employees may take advantage of the fact that the chance of being caught doing something corrupt is remote. Even if the offenders are caught, the consequences would probably be minimal.

Desire for an unfair advantage, many officials are motivated to participate in corrupt behavior because of the inherently selfish desire to have an unfair advantage over their peers through bribery, extortion, embezzlement, nepotism, and other means. Corruption can help dishonest people go ahead while the public pays price. A corrupted politician may seek to sway people's opinions, actions, or decision, reduce fee collected, speed up government grants, or change outcomes of legal processes. Through corruption people seeking an unfair advantage may bribe the courts, Police, customs officers, and tax collectors.

Corruption can also take place where there is excessive control and power monopoly. In these circumstances there is no a level playing field and decisions will always be made at the advantage of the group or person who dominates political arena. As a result ordinary citizen rights are lost and public resources are

often plundered for personal gains of public officials. Poverty or scarcity of goods may also push people to live outside the law.

Other causes of corruption.

- Erosion of integrity in public service due to abuse of power by individuals.
- Lack of political will to tackle the scourge
- Existence of excessive red tapes and ineffective regulatory framework
- Absence of rule of law, extreme poverty and inequity.
- Disconnection between traditional value and modernization.
- Lack of exemplary ethical leadership.
- Side lining citizens' participation in decision making.
- Unfair and undemocratic electoral system.
- Lack of security of "tenure"
- Unfettered economic liberalization and emergence of competitive conspicuous consumption.

EFFECTS OF CORRUPTION.

Effect on politics administration and institutions

Corruption poses a serious development challenge. In the political realm it undermines democracy and good governance by flouting or even subverting formal processes. Corruption in elections and in legislative bodies reduces accountability

and distorts representation in policy making. Corruption in the judiciary compromises the rule of law, and corruption in public administration results in the inefficient provision of services.

It violates a basic principle of republicanism. More generally, corruption erodes the institutional capacity of government as procedures are disregarded, resources are siphoned off, and public offices are bought and sold. At the same time corruption undermines the legitimacy of the government and such democratic values as trust and tolerance.

Economic effects.

Corruption undermines economic development by generating considerable distortion and inefficiency. In the private sector, corruption increases the cost of doing business through illegal payments, high management costs of negotiating with officials, and the risk of breached agreements or detection. Although some claim corruption reduces costs by cutting red tapes.

Environment and social effects

Corruption facilitates environmental destruction; corrupt countries may formally have legislation to protect the environment which cannot be enforced if the officials can be bribed easily. The same applies to the social rights workers protection, unionization, prevention, and child labor. Violation of these laws rights enables corrupt government to gain illegitimate economic advantage in the international market.

Corruption can also sabotage national development. Corruption leads to a loss of government legitimacy and public trust and support. It inhibits the functioning of the market, and distorts

the allocation and use of resources. Hence hampering trade and deterring investment.

Other effects of corruption

Observation and experience tell it all. Corruption reduces or worsens public services and expenditure; reduces employment, cuts down life expectancy, weakens the government, resulting into disappearances of law and order, thus causing immeasurable political and social consequences. Detriments of corruption also include economic vulnerability of citizens as income and distribution of welfare suffer; transparency disappears, speculative capital gets encouraged, long term investment withers, causing money volatility and resulting into economic instability.

“Corruption does more than this. It erodes confidence in leadership, weakens the structure of political organizations and the bureaucracy, creates social unrest, increases poverty, reduces the revenue of the government, creates unlevelled playing field, reduces productivity and creates an unfavorable impression of a country and its people.”

Remedial measures of corruption.

Leadership in the country has a key role to play in combating corruption. Leaders and those with authority, high regard and esteem. Hence the top leadership must set a good example with respect to honesty, integrity and hard work.

Since fighting corruption will involve taking difficult decisions, the leadership must also display firmness, political will and commitment to carry out the required reforms to counteract corruption.

Involving people. Publicity campaigns to create awareness of the adverse effects of corruption and a clear and unequivocal official pronouncement on the desirability to bring it under control, would be helpful. Ordinary citizens have first hand experience with corruption, they are good source of information. Their help and cooperation should be solicited for the successful launch of an anti- corruption drive.

Once people are convinced that a sincere and genuine effort to combat corruption is underway, they will respond positively and extend their full cooperation in resolving the problem. Just a little opening up and providing opportunities for them to express their views on the matter, will bring helpful information.

Responsible Press:

A responsible press to gather, analyze, organize, present and disseminate information is considered vital to create greater public awareness and provide the momentum for undertaking reforms to overcome corruption. Secretiveness has been a key factor that has enabled public officials and politicians to get away with corruption. A responsible and an investigative press has played an important role in the country in exposing misconduct, as well as in serving as a watchdog to limit corruption and preventing it from getting out of hand.

Combating corruption demands political commitment at highest level of government which can in turn be supported by pressure from civil societies outside the government, including the private sector, civil servants and influential citizens.

Specific measures adopted by government to fight corruption

Promoting transparency and accountability.

The introduction of the Leadership Code of Ethics, Act No: 13 of 1995 was intended to ensure that present and future leaders adhere to the highest standards of conduct. This law differentiates between declarable assets and non declarable assets, identifying what to declare and what not to declare.

Another significant initiative was the amendment of the prevention of Corruption Act to transform the Anti-corruption Squad to the prevention of Corruption Bureau with a more comprehensive mandate including investigation prevention and public education.

The Presidential Commission on Corruption (The Warioba Commission)

In 1998 the President appointed a Commission led by the former Prime Minister Joseph Warioba. This Commission catalogued a large number of public grievances on corruption and revealed that the public had lost confidence in the government's ability and will to contain corruption.

The Warioba report was remarkable for the detailed analysis. A large number of documented cases were presented. The report concluded that corruption had penetrated to the core of Tanzania society and had become endemic.

Appointment of Good Governance Minister who is responsible for among other things for monitoring overall strategy and implementation of ant-corruption measures. The National Anti-corruption Strategy focuses on the need for transparency and accountability in the government.

Conclusions

Problems in governance occur when a government is not only corrupt, but when it is also inefficient, unresponsive or secretive. Essentially, when a government is ineffectual, it is considered to be corrupt. Corruption is fundamentally caused by low wages, poor incentives structure and inefficient system. It is also caused by the desire for unfair advantage and the knowledge that one will not be caught or punished for corrupt behavior.

Corruption is not just about ethics, it is also about how the government is set up and managed. Parliament and parliamentarians must oversee the way government works so that corrupt behavior is punishable, and opportunities for corruption are limited through laws.