

Verifying corruption

Based on the red flags for detecting organised crime in a corporate set-up as discussed in the previous article, the following question is critical: What can Namibian institutions do to verify symptoms and/or red flags before exposing organised and corporate criminals?

Firstly, execute lifestyle audits on people that seem to live beyond their income, for example a public servant driving a Ferrari and living in Ludwigsdorf. For an initial verification of a suspicious lifestyle, private agents can be employed. For official investigations, auditing companies can be contracted to execute lifestyle audits.

Secondly, introduce job rotation to force people that do not want to take leave from office and protect malpractices in their daily operations. They need constant cover-up, fraud and embezzlement to keep the lid secured on the canister of worms they are guarding.

Integrity audits, integrity interviews, and credit checks can be executed during the recruitment process. The more senior the position, the bigger the opportunity for fraud as has been found repeatedly in research done by international auditing companies. The more senior the position, the more comprehensive such audits need to be, because the more costly it is to get rid of corrupt managers.

In the public sector such managers are often suspended with full pay for months and even years while replacements cannot be recruited.

Cyber crime and social media

Thirdly, establish an efficient and well equipped police force with the ability to employ hackers and crackers to uncover cyber fraud and networks, such as the Dark Web. The Namibian Police does have a Cyber Crime unit that is willing to assist the public. They can contract hackers and forensic specialists to uncover fraud.

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Technology during October hosted a Cyber Crime Competition for their students. Such events can be very useful for corporates, e.g. banks, to identify students for anti-cybercrime employment and for the Cyber Crime unit to contract students for specific investigations and/or employment. Handwriting and polygraph specialists can be contracted for private (civil) and criminal investigations, although findings of the latter cannot be used as evidence in a court of law.

Fourthly, create public oversight mechanisms for every institution. Such mechanisms can consist of anybody willing and/or capable to monitor a public, private and civil society institution with the purpose to improve such institutions' performance.

Fifthly, use social media forums like Facebook and Twitter to monitor suspicious institutions and/or any institution for public oversight and to create open and constructive dialogue on a national scale, known as network governance, one of the latest trends in public value management.

Institutions do have access to tools to verify corruption and to do something about it. Although contested if Edmund Burke was the first person to say it, it is appropriate to conclude with - "All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing".

• References

Coetzee, J.J. (2012). Systemic corruption and corrective change management strategies: A study of the co-producers of systemic corruption and its negative impact on socio-economic development. Unpublished PhD dissertation. Stellenbosch: University of Stellenbosch.