

Limited political will and commitment for a Namibian Integrity Assessment

The first and foremost most critical control measure needed for a Namibian Integrity Assessment (NIA) is committed political leadership in order to transform the corrupt Namibian society to one that is just and fair, and inspire all of us to reduce corruption.

To the knowledge of the author, the highest public office bearers that have lost their positions due to corruption in Namibia were two Deputy Directors. Despite numerous cases of unaccountable expenditure during twenty seven years, no Permanent Secretary has been fired due to corruption.

The "big fish", if investigated, seems to be above the law because the worst that could happen to them would be that they are put on suspension with full pay and benefits. After a year or two they receive a "golden handshake" and they are fully paid for the remaining contract period of normally five years.

THE MESSAGE

Not long afterwards, they are businessmen involved in some shady contracts and/or they are appointed on another board and/or in another position. This pattern is becoming a trend, sending out a clear message that corruption



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pays. If suspicion arises, Permanent Secretaries, Ministers and board members are rotated in never ending political manoeuvring.

Numerous alleged examples have been reported in the media, for example regarding Chief Executive Officers at TransNamib, Air Namibia and the National Petroleum Corporation of Namibia (Namcor).

In the United Kingdom, if a Minister is suspected of corruption, most of the time he or she resigns voluntary. This is not the case in Namibia.

A reason could be that we are functioning at a relative low level of political maturity. Our leaders are compromising their leadership due to their inability to avoid suspicious activities that create negative perceptions and their names are seldom cleared to end such negative perceptions.

References

Klitgaard, R. 2010. *Addressing Corruption in Haiti*.

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