

### Exhaust internal mechanisms

In Namibia some cases of corruption takes place in very small units of an institution where so few people deal with certain activities and/or services that reporting allegations of corruption, can expose the reporter, even if no name(s) are mentioned during internal reporting.

In such cases, it is better to discuss your issue with a trustworthy friend inside or outside your institution that will keep the information to him or herself. If the latter is not possible, and you can afford it, go and talk to a trusted lawyer that should operate under professional ethics of confidentiality of his or her occupation. If you do not have the financial means for legal advice, you can consult the Legal Assistance Centre.

Ensure you have written and/or visual evidence in safekeeping, preferably with reliable witnesses before talking to or reporting any issue to any person in the institution.

#### ALWAYS BE PREPARED

You should exhaust internally all mechanisms before considering blowing the whistle outside the institution (externally).

After talking to a trusted friend and/or



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lawyer, it is always preferable to report any issue to you immediate supervisor. You are directly accountable to him or her for most of your allocated work. If you report your allegation to any other person except your supervisor, be prepared for his or her possible response, because he or she can perceive such reporting as disloyal and can turn against you.

Ensure that you know your supervisor well enough to anticipate his or her response in advance before you report the allegation or contentious issue to him or her, especially if he or she can be implicated in the issue that you want to report.

#### • References

Eigen, P. (2002). **Controlling corruption: A key to development-orientated trade.**

Klitgaard, R. (2008). **A holistic approach to the fight against corruption.**

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