

Political will needed for a Namibian Integrity Assessment

The most critical control measure needed for a Namibian Integrity Assessment (NIA) is political will to transform the corrupt Namibian society to one that is just, fair and has a zero tolerance for corruption.

Out of more than eleven Presidential Commissions of Inquiry into corruption related issues, e.g. the disappearance of about N\$600 million at the Government Institutions Pension Fund of Namibia (GIPF), none of these reports have been released for public scrutiny. Our Presidents have submitted some of these reports to the Anti-Corruption Commission. However, none of them has been made available for public consumption.

INTERNATIONAL RATINGS

The annual average corruption and governance rating of Namibia by Transparency International (TI) for the period from 1998 to 2016, is 4.8 out of 10, with 10 an indication of no corruption. TI is the leading agency being consulted by investors to provide them with an indication of the comparable level of risk in terms of governance and corruption before investing in a country.



JOHAN COETZEE

A rating below 5 out of 10 is an indication that a country is facing systemic corruption. Such corruption deters the attaining of development objectives such as the newly formulated 5th National Development Plan (NDP5). It can also be deducted that Namibia is not meeting investor expectations.

The rating of TI should be interpreted in context of the magnitude of corruption, e.g. the N\$200 million unaccountable disappearance at the Small Medium Enterprises Bank (SME Bank) and a similar amount at the Namibia Students Financial Assistance Fund.

Frequently, corruption related articles are published in newspapers. It seems reasonable to conclude that the political will does not exist in Namibia to reduce corruption significantly.

References

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

jcoetzee@nust.na

23 June 2017 Die Republiek