

How to create information flows for transparency

As an initiative of UNESCO, 28 September 2016 has been celebrated as the World Access to Information Day. All social systems depend on information and effective communication networks. Information flows should be created to steer and influence a corrupt system towards transparency, accountability and sustainability based on universal properties of justness, fairness and integrity.

The independent media, free from government shareholding and control, should be strengthened.

Namibia should legalise guarantees for citizens to request and receive information on budget appropriations, performance and execution of activities of offices, ministries and agencies.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Conflict of interests cannot always be avoided. However, it can be managed in an accountable and transparent way. For example, strategies need to be developed on how to guarantee access to information; best practices to declare interests of board members, directors, and public servants; disclosing of information and gifts to individual politicians and public officials; and declara-



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tion of business interests and assets of all politicians and their family members on an annual basis, as indicated in the Code of Conduct of parliamentarians adopted during 2015.

Accessible information will contribute to the culture of openness and will make lifestyle audits of unexplained wealth possible. For this purpose, Article 62 of the Anti-Corruption Act should be strengthened.

Namibia should make the auditing of political parties' financial statements a legal requirement as soon as possible. Party leaders should be held liable for wasting taxpayers' money.

A transparent system will provide more competition and can also be used for sabotaging corruption from within.

• References

Republic of Namibia, 2003. Anti-Corruption Act 18 of 2003. Government Gazette, Windhoek.

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