

## Taking stock of how to contain corruption in Namibia

Articles published since 16 December 2016 (Part 80) focused on containing corruption, meaning stabilising the corruption situation in Namibia.

These articles focused on identifying the drivers of development and in effect on the drivers of corruption because corruption is a development issue. Articles also focused on centralising the corruption situation and focusing on strategic areas to capitalise on "low hanging fruit" so that people can experience the benefits of being part of the process to change public perceptions, i.e. the Namibian Police, the Ministry of Works and Transport, Tax and Customs and public tendering. Once successes have been attained in these critical areas, the corruption program can be rolled out to other areas of our bloated and inefficient public service.

Despite one of our latest State Owned Enterprises, the Business and Intellectual Property Authority (BIPA) - with the mandate to register business and intellectual property, being created to increase efficiency, it takes 66 days on average to register a business. In New Zealand it can be done in one working day. Why should it take 65 days, more than two months, to do the same thing?

### CONTAINMENT

During the containing phase, the focus is on eliminating programs prone to corruption. For example, by eliminating subsidy programs such as drought relief and legalising alternative drugs and medicines such as marijuana, there will be much less reason for bribing enforcement officers.

Abolishing and/or changing programs that create scarcities and monopolies are essential, e.g. our 98 State Owned Enterprises (SOEs) of which most do not have competition.



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A substantial number of SOEs do not publish and/or audit financial statements, however, are politically allowed to waste taxpayer's money (your money) with almost no consequences. The SME Bank has been closed due to corruption, however, nobody was arrested yet.

The liquidators stated this week that the process is complex. By implication, the complexity of finding culprits guilty protects criminals, while the victims, the taxpayers, do not have protection. The containing phase is concluded with designing and implementing a Namibian Integrity System for the eleven pillars of society and Integrity Assessments for auditing the capacity of institutions to network and tackle corruption on an integrated basis. Articles that follow will focus on dissolving corruption, which can be embarked upon once corruption has been stabilised and a critical mass or a tipping point has been attained to change perceptions and create momentum for sustainable change. Dissolving corruption means implementing long term and sustainable measures to transform the Namibian society over a period of about forty years, based on best practise of the United Kingdom and United States of America during the 18th century, and Hong Kong and Singapore during the 19th century. It takes at least one generation to transform a corrupt society.

#### \* References

Coetzee, J.J. 2016-2017. Articles published in *Republikein*. Part 80, 16 December 2016 – Part 114, 1 September 2017. Windhoek.

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