

## Dissolving corruption – kick off with initiating public debate

Due to the rugby match between the Springboks and the All Blacks this Saturday, it is probably appropriate to use the term "kick off" as the first step to start with the enormous task of embarking on "dissolving" corruption. Corruption cannot be solved, because it is a holistic and/or systemic phenomenon on which hundreds and thousands of contributors have an effect. Corruption is not a linear and/or mathematical problem where one plus one adds up to two.

Due to the holistic and complex nature of corruption, it can for example create and change its own environment, all possible anti-corruption strategies have an influence on each other. For instance, increasing policing as a strategy on its own without supportive strategies such as changing the judicial, executive and legislative system cannot reduce corruption.

### TAKE PART

Articles that follow will focus on dissolving corruption during a period of about forty years. One of the first strategies could be to increase the participation of people in influencing and decision making on all levels of society and politics. People who have ownership through participation will feel valued as one of the critical requirements for all human development.

The low level of voter participation in local elections as well as in public debate about national issues such as corruption and the current slow progress with the urban land issue are indications of apathy that could be due to a number of reasons.

The younger generation seems not to have an interest in politics.

They tend to be more interested in social media, studying and finding employment.



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Citizen activism and public policy participation can enable sustainable policy formulation for improved service delivery.

To sensitise the public and entice them in participating in public dialogue about public and private sector service delivery, case studies of other countries and scenarios can be discussed. Such debate should be initiated and include countrywide participation and adequate media coverage.

In such debate the public and private sector should be involved, including interest groups, representing civil society.

This is one way of mobilising creativity and to embark on what Klitgaard called the "beginning of action plans". Workshop participants can analyse case studies about successful anti-corruption programmes in best practice countries, e.g. Singapore and Hong Kong, before focusing on Namibia. Participants should learn about the nature, negative impact and forms of corruption, as well as possible anti-corruption strategies to develop an anti-corruption network and to cultivate anti-corruption pacts between stakeholders.

Cross-cutting strategies can be developed in order to increase the probability of reducing corruption significantly.

### • References

Klitgaard, R. 2010. Addressing Corruption in Haiti.

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