

## External whistleblowing is a safety valve

Due to the Industrial Revolution, the forces of the state and market gained power, dismantled the family structure and gained increasingly control over people (Harari).

External whistleblowing is necessary for protecting the individual from excessive and uncontrolled power of the state (nationalism) and the market (business, especially Multinational Corporations). If external whistleblowing is not part of the national and institutional culture, it creates lucrative opportunities for abuse of power and the withholding of information that should be accessible to the public.

### COMMISSIONS

The Government of Namibia appointed Presidential Commissions of Inquiry to investigate various cases of alleged corruption. Some of these include the Inquiry into the Police (1990), Misuse of Government Properties (1992), Procedures and Practices applied in the allocation and utilisation of Fishing Rights (1993), Causes of Resistance by certain members of the Caprivan community regarding the appointment of some senior public servants in education (1993), Labour related matters affecting Agricultural and Domestic Employees (1995), Aviation Regulatory Practices of the Directorate: Civil Aviation in the Ministry of Works, Transport and Communication (1997),



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Education, Culture and Training (1999), TransNamib (2001), the Social Security Commission (2002), the Roads Authority and the Road Fund Administration and Development Brigade Corporation (2003) and the Government Institutions Pensions Fund (2005). The list is by no means complete.

If the contents of these reports are accessible to the public, the Government will set a new standard for transparency, accountability and leadership that will spill over in all areas of public and private life, e.g. business and family. Political leaders committed to fight corruption, is most probably the strongest driver in the fight against corruption.

External whistleblowing is an important safety valve to create openness, enhances accountability and stimulates public trust in leaders. A culture of public reporting can transform Namibia into the most inspirational nation in Africa and the developing world.

### • References

Harari, Y.N. 2011. *Sapiens. A Brief History of Humankind*.

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