



Transparency International's National Integrity System 'Greek Temple'. Source: Page (2000: 35).

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How to create a Namibian integrity system

Several countries have successfully adopted and tailored a National Integrity System (NIS) to assess, manage and monitor corruption.

Australia has been continuously rated as one of the least corrupt countries by Transparency International (TI). TI is one of the most accredited rating agencies of governance and corruption that investors use for assessing and comparing the socio-economic and political risks of countries for investment purposes.

The term NIS is the brainchild of Jeremy Pope of TI, to describe "a changing pattern in anti-corruption strategies in which it was recognised that the answer to corruption does not lie in a single institution, let alone a single law, but in a number of agencies, laws, practices and ethical codes" (Griffith University and TI Australia).

Developing National Integrity System assessments can guide the evaluation of key institutions that can contribute to the governance of the Namibian society. The following values and/or principles can guide such evaluation, namely integrity, transparency and accountability.

INVOLVEMENT

These pillars of the Namibian society need to be included: the three branches of democratic government (executive, legislative and judiciary), the media, the private sector and civil society.



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These pillars can also include watchdog institutions in the public sector (e.g. the Anti-Corruption Commission), Ombudsman, electoral management body (the Electoral Commission of Namibia), supreme audit institution (e.g. the Office of the Auditor General), law enforcement bodies (e.g. the police) and political parties (Transparency International).

Transparency International's National Integrity System "Greek Temple" illustrates some of the pillars that can be considered for Namibia. It is necessary to describe the capacity of pillars suitable for Namibia and their relationships. Each of the pillars needs to be assessed to determine its role, capacity and governance relative to each other.

• References

Griffith University and Transparency International Australia. 2005. *Chain or Coherence? Strengths, Opportunities and Challenges for Australia's Integrity Systems. National Integrity Systems (NIS) Final Report*. Key Centre for Ethics, Law, Justice, and Governance, Australian National Research Council Linkage Project.

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