

## A bottom-up process for managing Namibia's corruption

If political commitment does not exist or is mediocre as seems to be the case in Namibia, then a bottom-up approach should be followed in order to create social cohesion and pressure on politicians to reform. The bottom-up process is a time consuming process that can take more than one generation, as is evident from common denominators of best practice case studies of the United Kingdom and the United States of America during the 18th and 19th centuries respectively. If a bottom-up process is followed, what can be done to stabilise the situation (containing) and what can be done as part of dissolving the situation to create a conducive environment for sustainable reform or transformation? To stabilise the situation, pressure should be exercised by civil institutions across the board on politicians, to increase the capacity of law enforcement agencies, to develop pockets of excellence in the public sector and to create an open debate on corruption.

In developing excellence, strategic areas that could be focused on are, inter alia, the police, revenue and procurement. Such a strategy can influence all stakeholders of these best practice areas, the public and private sector and civil society. In pursuing this strategy, accurate statistics should be kept, to measure, monitor, develop, evaluate and change outdated strategies. The



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police needs to be highly visible, create a safe environment and cover all crime, irrespective of how small its impact. The covering of all incidents of small crime will contain the corruption situation for the interim and medium term and will lead to the bigger criminals, such as the drug bosses, as part of the longer term or dissolving phase. Once benchmarks are in place and the success of the police is evident, the underlying principles can be adopted and tailored for all other areas of law enforcement, such as licence and permit applications. Such an approach can create an across-the-board long-term culture of respect for authority, law and order.

### References:

Coetzee, J.J. 2012. *Systemic Corruption and Corrective Change Management Strategies: A study of the co-producers of systemic corruption and its negative impact on socio-economic development*. Unpublished PhD dissertation, University of Stellenbosch, Stellenbosch.

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