

Subverting the subversive

A corrupt system should be undermined and sabotaged.

Klitgaard talked about "subverting corruption", meaning infiltrating and exposing the subversive operations of corrupters and corruptees.

This can be done by creating effective information flows as part of a network of key people. Such a network for subverting the corrupt can go "underground" to operate the same way that organised criminal networks operate.

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However, secrecy about network operations can encourage corruption. Such networks for "subverting the subversive" must be monitored by highly trustworthy and competent people with a reputation for unquestionable integrity and accountability. In order to enable such subverting, fluid, adaptable and elusive networks of more informal than formal social organisations are needed, similar to the characteristics of networks of local organised criminal groups and Transnational Criminal Organisations (TCOs).

Such networks can enable information, knowledge and communication. Corruption can be fought from within.

Organised crime, as a manifestation of systemic corruption in Namibia and South Africa, can be attacked by "subverting the subversive"; by disseminating information on the corrupt system



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that corrupters and corruptees would like to keep hidden.

Some critical requirements are that those entrusted to infiltrate and expose corruption should not be politically linked, not report to politicians, not be appointed by politicians, be scrutinised for any wrongdoing and should have impeccable credibility in the Namibian society. If these requirements cannot be met, subverting the subversive should be abolished, because it has the potential to corrupt a system even further.

If questions cannot be asked in public and/or in parliament that could guarantee accountable answers about subversive activities (similar to the secret and non-transparent activities of any Defence Force) then subverting the subversive should be abolished.

References

Klitgaard, R. 2010. Addressing Corruption in Haiti.

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