Managing key drivers and key uncertainties

In developed countries, the private sector is the biggest engine of growth and also the biggest change agent.

Already in 2009, 51 of the 100 largest economies in the world, in terms of gross revenue, were multinational companies and not governments. There are millions of companies, but only a few hundred governments (King & Lessidrenska). Of the top 100 economies, based on GDP and revenue, 60 are countries and the remaining 40 are MNCs (Juniper).

In developing countries (Namibia has been categorised as an upper middle-income country by the World Bank, however mainly based on its GDP per capita), the size of the private sector is small relative to the size of the public sector, meaning the private sector cannot realistically be the biggest change agent. The public sector and the role of governments tend to be more influential in developing countries and countries such as Namibia.

CONTROL

The first key uncertainty in managing corruption in a dysfunctional public



JOHAN COETZEE

sector is: Who is in control of the key drivers of corruption?

If the public sector and governments in developing countries and Namibia are the biggest drivers for change, it can be a serious obstruction to reform and transformation. In an already corruption prone environment, those in control of government are also controlling development and can deliberately create obstructions.

References

Juniper, T. 2016. What's Really Happening to our Planet? London: Penguin House. King, M.E. & Lessidrenska, T. 2009. Transient Caretakers: Making Life on Earth Sustainable. Johannesburg: Pan Macmillan.

THIS COLUMN WILL RESUME ON 20 JANUARY 2017

jcoetzee@nust.na