

*CORRUPTION: A SOCIO-ECONOMIC
INJUSTICE*

by
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SCOPE OF THE TALK

- i. The definition of the term corruption**
- ii. Causes of corruption**
- iii. Effects of corruption A SOCIAL INJUSTICE**
- iv. Benefits of preventing corruption**
- v. Indicators of successful corruption prevention efforts**
- vi Stake Holders role – The role of Church Leaders**
- vii. Individual's role in the fight against corruption**

Defining Corruption

- What do you understand by the word corruption in normal parlance/mother tongue?

What is Corruption

- There is no universal definition of corruption.
- Etymologically, it is derived from Latin word '*corruptus*' meaning to **abuse or destroy**.
- **Corruption is the abuse or misuse of entrusted power, office, or resources (by either elected government officials or those in private sectors) for personal or private gain – WB, UNDP & TI**
- **EACC** defines it as 'The **abuse of authority** for **personal advantage/for** the advantage of another person/group...includes bribery, theft, embezzlement, fraud & evasion of payment of govt revenue/taxes.'

Corruption defined Cont'd.

- **The World Bank** definition “The **abuse of power for personal gain** or for the benefit of a group to which one owes allegiance.”
- **Olusegun Obasanjo** views corruption as: “The **misuse of public office** for profit or advantage, **acts of commission and omission** in your employment resulting in loss or disadvantage to your employer and private gain to you or any other person associated with you.”

Overview of Corruption

- Corruption is today a **world-wide** phenomenon.
- UN, WB & TI believes that corruption is one of the **greatest challenges** of contemporary world which requires immediate global intervention.
- Its like a '**Virus**' or '**Cancer**' which threatens the existence & development of humanity by challenging & weakening the socio-economic and political system & order of society.
- Corruption is **worse than prostitution** because, while the latter endangers the morals of an individual, the former endangers the morals of an entire country - Karl Kraus (Austrian satirist).

Corruption Globally

- Corruption around **the world** remains a deeply **entrenched**
- It is not only found **among underdeveloped & banana republics** – its found everywhere
- **70 % of countries studied by Transparency International in 2014** have a serious corruption problem
- **Corruption is synonymous with poor governance, underdevelopment & conflict**
- **The more corrupt a country is the more underdeveloped, unstable & conflictual it is & vice versa**
- e.g. Iraq, N. Korea, Somalia, Afghanistan & Myanmar – unstable & corrupt
- **Norway, New Zealand, Finland, Sweden & Singapore** - which are ranked among the **highest in the UNDP human development index** - are among the **least corrupt** countries hence the most stable & peaceful nations globally.

Corruption in Africa

- Corruption in Africa is not only widespread but **systemic**; it has now reached **cancerous** proportions.
- “Currently, **corruption & HIV are the two major killers** in Africa.” - Meghji
- African Development Bank estimates that the amount of money Africa loses annually through corruption is higher than donor & aid inflows.
- Where as only 23% of countries in EU & Western Europe are significantly corrupt, 90% of countries in Sub-Saharan Africa have a serious corruption problem –TI 2013 CPI
- This has a demonstrable negative impact on the development process in the region.
- **THE DESTINY OF THE BLACK MAN IS WITH THE GOD WHO PAINTED US BLACK**

Corruption in Africa Cont'd.

- The age-old problems of weak governance, poverty, and violence in Africa is as a result of corruption - WB World Development Reports
- **Corruption makes countries 30-40% more vulnerable to violence - Mo Ibrahim foundation**
- In spawning violence, corruption not only threatens the viability and stability of whole nation states but hobbles African security, peace and development.
- Thus, “To End Africa Violence [& other governance problems], Deal With Corruption” - Mo Ibrahim

Corruption in Kenya

- Corruption is the **main contributing factor for the underdevelopment** of this country.
- In 2011 Price Waterhouse Coopers rated Kenya's **corporate corruption as the highest in the world**.
- **TI rated Kenya at position 139 out of 176 countries in the world corruption index in 2012.**
 - 2013 = 136/177
 - 2014 = 145/174
 - 2015 = 139/176
 - 2016 = 145/176 (scoring 26/100)
- This is reflected in its UNDP human development index
 - In 2013 Kenya ranks at position 145 out of 187 countries
 - In 2014 = 147/187
 - 2015 = 145 globally and 18 in Africa
 - 2016 = 146 globally

2016 Mo Ibrahim Index of African Governance

- 1st – Mauritius
- 2nd - Cape Verde
- 3rd – Botswana
- 4th – South Africa
- 5th - Seychelles
- 6th – Namibia
- 7th – Ghana
- 8th – Tunisia
- 9th – Senegal
- 10th – Lesotho
- 11th – Rwanda
- 12th- Sao Tome & Principe
- 15th - Tanzania
-
- 17th - Kenya
- 19th - Uganda
- 26th - Egypt
- 32nd - Ethiopia
- 37th - Nigeria
- 38th - Burundi
- 47th – DRC
- 52nd - Somalia

• “Good governance is about harnessing a country’s resources to achieve the results any citizen living in the 21st century has a right to expect.”

Mo Ibrahim

Most Common forms of Corruption in Kenya – NSCE 2014 (EACC Report)

- Bribery
- **Nepotism /Ethnicity / Ethnicity/Impartiality(In recruitments.**
- Embezzlement
- Abuse of office/power
- Extortion
- Delay of service provision/ poor service delivery
- Corruption related to land issue
- Forgery
- Flawed procurement procedures
- Discrimination
- Lack of accountability/irresponsibility
- Negligence
- Betrayal
- Inflated commodity process

Causes of Corruption

- What do you think are the causes of corruption?

Causes of Corruption

- Greed
- Political patronage
- **Bad governance**
- Tribalism, favoritism, nepotism and cronyism
- Weak civil society & social empowerment
- Lack of professional integrity
- Lack of transparency & accountability
- Inefficient public sector
- Weak or absence of management systems, procedures and practices
- Failure to fully implement proposals & recommendations of watchdog institutions
- Poverty
- Disregard to professional ethics
- Impunity/non enforcement of the law
- Erosion of societal values and norms, etc.

Warning Signals of Corruption in an Institution

These are some of the warning signals that corruption may be going on in an institution:

- **Staying in office till very late**
- Speaking in low tones on phone/conversations
- **Overfriendliness with clients**
- **Buying small items frequently & from the same supplier**
- **Buying in large quantities of certain items to last for years**
- Flying vouchers
- **Creating emergencies in order to buy**
- **Requests for authorizations late in the day/Friday at 4.00pm, Etc.**

A Quote on Law & Corrupt State

- The more corrupt the state, the more numerous the laws.”

Tacitus, *The Annals of Imperial Rome*

Effects of Corruption

- **How does corruption affect your life and society at large?**
- **CORRUPTION IS A SOCIAL INJUSTICE**

Effects of Corruption

CORRUPTION IS A SOCIAL INJUSTICE

Corruption has negative effects both to the individual & the nation

- Poor infrastructure
- Increased costs of living
- Increased poverty
- Unemployment
- Rise in crime rate & insecurity
- Poor medical services
- Delay, denial & sale of justice in courts
- Grabbing of public land, property & utilities
- Social unrest
- Negative international image(Travel restrictions, sanctions
- Reduced investment in our economy
- Shoddy work & stalled projects, short deliveries, air deliveries

Facts on the Effects of Corruption

- **CORRUPTION AS AN INJUSTICE**
- **Corruption is both a major cause and a result of poverty around the world**
- **Bribery in the Western world alone is estimated to run to US\$80 billion a year—roughly the amount that the UN believes is needed to eradicate global poverty**
- **European Commission report estimates that “stolen African assets equivalent to more than half of the continent’s external debt are held in foreign bank accounts.”**
- **Corruption affects the poorest the most, whether in rich or poor nations.**

Main Characteristic of a Corrupt Society

- CORRUPTION A SOCIAL INJUSTICE

"Corrupt societies are unable to support their citizens...They starve their children, not only of food but of education and health care. They're ongoing nightmares."

**Stuart Gilman, head of the UNODC
Anti-Corruption Unit.**

Benefits of Preventing Corruption

- Economic growth & development
- Increase in domestic & foreign investment
- Poverty eradication
- Increased employment
- Improved social behavior & moral standards
- Respect for the rule of law (justice) & code of ethics
- Effective, responsive, responsible, fair & efficient public servants
- Increased confidence in our development partners
- Peace & stability
- Quality products at affordable prices.

Indicators of Successful Corruption Prevention Efforts

- Improved private sector activities
- Improved infrastructure
- Efficiency in the delivery of public services
- Efficient & effective administration of justice
- Respect for the rule of law
- Enhanced public safety & security
- Reduced public complaints on service delivery
- Reduced number of corruption cases for investigations & prosecution
- Stable, predictable economic policies for sound economic planning & sustained growth.

The role of the various stakeholders

The Government

- Private Sector
- Civil Society
- The church
- The individual

THE ROLE OF CHRISTIANS IN FIGHTING CORRUPTION

Faith based organisations:

- To understand the corruption phenomenon
- To preach/teach and promote values and principles
- To provide moral guidance and counselling.
- To make responsible decisions
- To make corruption resistance skills

Corruption and the Church – Script by Olesegun Obasanjo

- Legislations alone are not enough as they are often breached by those who make them and those who should implement them.
- Our main problems are moral, ethical, attitudinal failure and disorientation.
- The church is an institution that provides the moral and ethical standards for us as believers.
- Man alone by himself cannot get rid of corruption from the world, he needs the assistance of God.
- Here must come the society and the church with the spirit of God to work together to undo the harm that man has done and continue to do to the perfect work of God on earth.
- The church needs to clear its Augean stable.
- The temple of God must be cleanest to restore the holiness of the church.
- Our present day money changers and merchants.
- Must be chased out of the church.
- The pulpit must be used to teach and preach righteous and honest living.
- To preach that one can acquire wealth without labour is not only deceitful but also a call to corruption.

Corruption and the Church – Script by Olesegun Obasanjo

- We must be careful in believing and celebrating every testimony of miraculous blessing otherwise we end up celebrating corruption.
- The behavior of some of our men of God leaves much to be desired.
- They not only celebrate but venerate those whose sources of wealth are questionable.
- They accept gifts (offerings) from just anybody without asking questions giving the impression that anything is acceptable in the house of God.
- Christian leaders should sanitise the church for an effective anti-corruption crusade.
- The role must be played in praying, preaching and teaching.
- This is a period of moral and ethical rebirth and the church as an agent of socialisation must embark on moral re-armament for the church and for the nation.”

ROLE OF THE CHURCH CONT

- Choosing silence in the face of corruption, the Church is abdicating its unique and vital role in society.
- Kenya needs the church to be more visible in the fight against corruption.
- The Church cannot detach itself from politics.
- It cannot refrain from reflecting on the implications of its faith within our political context.
- It has reason to intervene, to avoid bleeding our country to death through corruption.
- **The church organizations play roles in reconciliation, both because of their position in civil society and more importantly because of the historical power they bear from Christ to be agents of reconciliation(ROBERT SCHREIGHTER)**
- It should not be afraid to say, like the prophets of old: “Thus says the Lord...” It has clarity on matters of national importance affecting the people, unlike its counterparts today, who are even failing to define their own mandate.

THE ROLE OF THE CHURCH CONT

The Church in Kenya struggles in silence while endemic corruption ravages the public and private sectors of the country.

- The clerics represent the most cohesively structured, the most firmly organized and the most solidly unified institution in the country.”against corruption**
- Pope Benedict XVI defines the Church’s role in the political sphere as primarily The Church must awaken man’s receptivity to the truth, to God, and thus to the power of conscience. It must give men and women the courage to live according to their conscience and so keep open the narrow pass between anarchy and tyranny, which is none other than the narrow way of peace.”**
- The clerics should use the church to liberate the people of Kenya, thereby living up to their calling to be “salt” and “light” in the world.**
- The Church in Kenya struggles in silence while endemic corruption ravages the public and private sectors of the country.**
- Irrespective of how much we might belittle their social standing, the clerics represent the most cohesively structured, the most firmly organized and the most solidly unified institution in the country.”against corruption**
- Pope Benedict XVI is emphatic about the role the Church should play in society. He defines the Church’s role in the political sphere as primarily education. The Church must awaken man’s receptivity to the truth, to God, and thus to the power of conscience. It must give men and women the courage to live according to their conscience and so keep open the narrow pass between anarchy and tyranny, which is none other than the narrow way of peace.”**

Role of an Individual in the War against Corruption

Individual citizens can fight corruption in the following ways:

- Respect & protect public property
- Avoid engaging in corruption
- Never give or receive a bribe
- Appreciate & reward hard work, honesty & trustworthiness
- Report cases of corruption to EACC
- Talk to everyone about the evils of corruption
- Refuse to be pressurized to act irregularly & unlawfully

Role of an Individual Cont'd.

- Never falsify make a claim
- Be a role model
- Develop interest in national issues
- Stigmatize ill-gotten wealth
- Teach children the virtues of honesty, hard work, integrity & self discipline
- Correct & reprimand bad behavior
- Give advice, direction & suggestions on how to fight corruption to management at your place of work
- Name & shame corrupt people.
- Elect leaders of integrity (Chap. 6 – New Constitution)

Conclusion

- Corruption adversely affects human & sustainable development.
- There is, therefore, an urgent need to curb this monster.
- Controlling corruption will only be successful if there is far-reaching cooperation from a wide range of stakeholders in society at large, including the state, civil society, the private sector, individual efforts & international institutions.
- The role of individual citizens in the fight against corruption is a key responsibility for the development of a nation.
- Let us all unite as Kenyans to denounce this evil as this is the only path towards peaceful co-existence and economic prosperity.
- This requires more actions than words for without the efforts of you and me in the fight against corruption then we are in one way or the other participating in destroying our own self & the country.

Remember...

- “To oppose corruption in government is the highest obligation of patriotism.”

G. Edward Griffin