

THE RELEVANCE OF INDIVIDUAL PARTICIPATION IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION.

An act that has somewhat been accepted as a social norm, corruption has managed to comfortably weave itself into our lives and has found comfort in our society.

The mention of corruption in the media no longer raises eyebrows, as some people would even go to the extent of associating it with Namibian culture. A narrative that can be contested considering the percentage of Namibians that benefit from this act.

The effects of corruption are evident in modern-day Namibia, as the inequality and poverty rate tends to increase in the Southwest African country. According to the information published on the World Bank website, Namibia's poverty rate was expected to increase at a shocking 2.7% as by the year 2020. A sight which is bound to be disastrous for a country whose minimum wage stands at no more than N\$2000.

Corruption undoubtedly hinders the development of countries and drives generations of improvised people back into poverty.

For offenses such as corruption to flourish, as individuals, we play a big role in enabling them. Hence, choosing to accept a bribe or even turning a blind eye to corrupt activity creates a desirable environment for this dishonest behaviour to exist.

It is against this background that as a nation, Namibian people should come together in their personal capacity to fight this evil. Fighting corruption should not merely be left alone to institutions such as the Anti-Corruption Commission, Civil Societies, or the Police but rather looked upon as a group project. For Namibians to even dream of eradicating the presence of this criminal offence out of our societies, we will need all hands on deck. The fight against corruption starts from a grassroots level, it begins with you. This statement which might come off as a cliché carries weights of truth. Imagine, if people refused to pay or receive a bribe, corruption will not take place. If people refuse to allow corruption into their lives, there will be no opportunity for the corrupter to carry out their illegal deeds.

Each and every Namibian should develop a zero-tolerance to corruption, and adopt the quality of integrity and honesty at all times. Fighting corruption collectively is one large step to restoring not only the dignity of our people but also aids in fostering a society that is rooted in honesty and strong moral principles. Each individual as a responsible citizen can definitely make a difference by breaking the chain of corruption. It is therefore incumbent upon every individual to effectively play their share of responsibility in the fight against all forms of corruption.

We should all be part and parcel of the fight against corruption by taking it upon ourselves to be at the forefront of ensuring that we do not permit corruption to prosper in our communities and allow it to further deprive us of basic human needs.

‘‘Be Part of The Fight’’

Rena Stephanus, is a Final year Public Relations and Advertising student, At the University of Namibia and she is doing her internship at the Anti-Corruption Commission.