



BE PART OF THE FIGHT!

ONGWEDIVA ANNUAL TRADE FAIR CORRUPTION PERCEPTION SURVEY 2009

ANTI-CORRUPTION COMMISSION (ACC)

DIRECTORATE OF PUBLIC EDUCATION CORRUPTION PREVENTION

BE PART OF THE FIGHT

ACC MISSION STATEMENT

Our Vision

To be a world class Anti-Corruption

Our Mission

To fight corruption in Namibia through effective law enforcement and preventative measures in a professional manner for the good of society

Our Core Values

Integrity
Accountability
Courage
Transparency
Excellence
Fidelity to the law
Fairness and impartiality

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

ACC – Anti-Corruption Commission

CBS – Central Bureau of Statistics

FBO – Faith Based Organizations

NGO – Non-Governmental Organizations

NPC – National Planning Commission

BACKGROUND

1.1. Introduction

The Anti-Corruption Commission was established by the Anti-Corruption Act No. 8 of 2003 with the mandate to, amongst others, receive or initiate and investigate allegations of corrupt practices, prevent the occurrences of corrupt practices and educate the public on the dangers of corruption.

Corruption is a key indicator of weak governance and has detrimental effects on the economic, social and political wellbeing of the nation. Corruption hampers national, economic, social and political progress. It usually results in lowering competition and effectiveness, productivity and fair competition. Corruption further increases public spending and discourages economic innovation.

Corruption in the end affects every member of society irrespective of his or her social status. However, the worst and immediate victims of corruption are the poor and marginalized members of society. It exacerbates poverty and inequality because of fewer opportunities to participate in the mainstream of the economy. Corruption limits access to education and eventually to unemployment opportunity.

In line with the above mentioned factors, the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) conducted a Perception Survey to generate data in order to design comprehensive governance and anti-corruption strategies. The survey will provide necessary information that will guide the ACC's intervention measure and help to prioritize the type of educational programs to implement.

It is on this basis that the Commission undertook a Perception Survey in order to provide accurate information on the extent of corruption in Namibia. The survey measures perception relating to corruption and service delivery of public service. It is, in addition, an important instrument for monitoring progress made in the fight against corruption in Namibia.

1.2. Objectives

The main objective of the survey was to measure the perception of corruption among the public in Namibia. The specific objectives included the need to:

- Establish the public's perception of the status of corruption in the country
- Assess the public's understanding of what constitutes corruption
- Analyze how the public responds to corrupt practices
- Assess the effectiveness of the Anti-corruption Commission

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1. Introduction

This is a mini survey which, the ACC decided to conduct during the Ongwediva Trade Fair which takes place annually and attract about 94 000 participants every year. A short questionnaire was designed and visitors to the ACC stand were asked to voluntarily fill this questionnaire and return it to the ACC officers.

The respondents had to answer the questions on their own but they had the opportunity to ask questions where necessary. The survey focused on primary data directly from respondents, no secondary data was used.

2.2. Sampling

The survey was conducted on sample of 213 individuals who were randomly selected upon their visit to the ACC stand at the Ongwediva Annual Trade fair.

2.2 Data Collection

The tool used to collect data for this survey was a questionnaire, which was mainly designed to produce quantitative results. The questionnaire was designed in a very simple and user-friendly manner, so as both youth and adult could respond in a very minimum time frame. All completed questionnaire were checked for quality purpose.

2.3. Data Processing

The ACC collaborated with National Planning Commission's (NPC) Central Statistic Bureau, to utilize SPSS software to process and analyze the data for this mini survey. The completed questionnaires were serialized, coded and double checked to ensure quality control. Data from coded questionnaire were entered into the computer on an Excel spreadsheet. The data was later exported to SPSS for analysis

2. 5. Limitations of the Survey

The Survey faced certain limitations such as potential compromised validity of the responses because of the fixed responses on the questionnaire. The sample size of this mini survey is particularly small and the majority of the respondents were from same geographical area, namely, Oshana, Oshikoto, Ohangwena and Omusati regions. Therefore, although this data is very significant, it would not be statistically correct to use it as a representation of the entire Namibian population.

3. SURVEY FINDINGS

3.1. Introduction

This section presents the key findings of the survey in line with its stated objectives. The section starts with discussion on sex, age and activities engaged by respondents. It details the extent of corruption in Namibia followed by an examination of respondent knowledge on what constitutes corruption. The section ends with respondent opinion on the work of ACC.

Region	Respondents	
	Number	Percent
Caprivi	3	1.4
Erongo	5	2.3
Hardap	1	0.5
Kunene	3	1.4
Kavango	2	0.9
Khomas	12	5.6
Karas	4	1.9
Ohangwena	12	5.6
Omusati	24	11.3
Oshana	133	62.4
Oshikoto	13	6.1
Otjozondjupa	1	0.5
Total	213	100

Figure 1: Respondents by Region

2. Sex

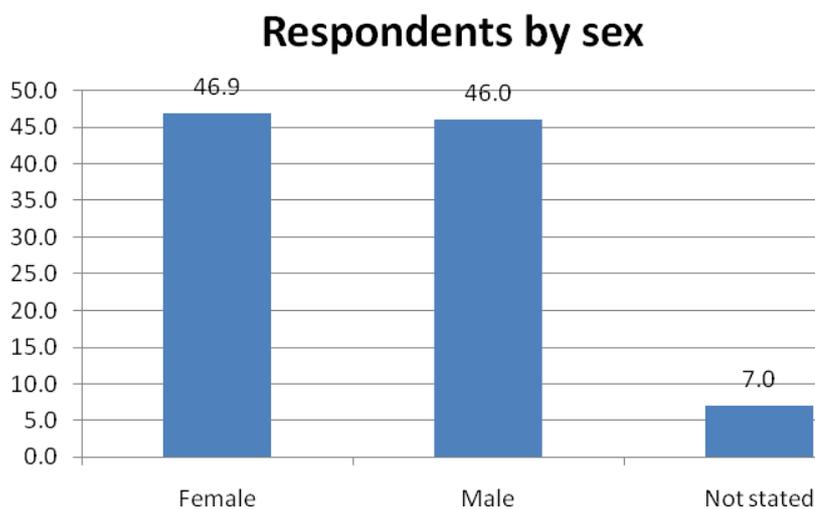


Figure 2: Respondents by sex

There were slightly more women than men who participated in the survey, female 47%, male 46% while 7% did not state their sex.

3.3. Age Group

Thirty one percent, which constitutes the majority of respondents in this survey were youth between the age of 22- 30 , followed by 25% between the age of 13-21 About 20% of the respondents are between the age of 31and 35, The rest of the age groups represent less than 10% of the participants.

3.4. Activities

Close to 30% of respondents were working in the Public Sector, while 16% working in the Private Sector. About 20% of the respondents were attending Secondary School, 2% attending Primary School and 13% were unemployed

3.5. Corruption in Namibia

Corruption Status	Female	Male	Not stated	Total	Female	Male	Not stated	Total
	Number				Percent			
Very Low	4			4	4			1.9
Low	5	1	1	7	5	1.0	6.7	3.3
In between high and low	34	28	6	68	34	28.6	40.0	31.9
High	37	33	4	74	37	33.7	26.7	34.7
Very High	20	33	4	57	20	33.7	26.7	26.8
Not Stated		3		3		3.1		1.4
Total	100	98	15	213	100	100	100	100

Figure 3: Level of Corruption by sex

The subject concerning the level of corruption in Namibia usually tends to bring out mixed responses, thus the survey sought to establish how the respondents view the level of corruption in Namibia. The figures above shows that 34 .7% of respondents considered corruption as high, 26.6% said corruption was very high. Other respondents rather felt that corruption was in between high and low (31.9%) and about 5% thinking it is either low or very low. The figure above also tells us that about 67% of the male respondents feel corruption is either high or very high compared to about 53% or the female respondents.

3.6. What constitutes corruption?

3.6.1. Bribing

Bribery is one of the most common forms of corruption in Namibia to date, this survey sought to establish whether respondents perceived bribery as a corrupt practice. The figure above shows that 73.2% of respondents perceived bribing as constituting corrupt practice, 15.5% said bribery is not a corrupt practice. Other respondents did not respond (11.3%) The result indicates that the respondents are aware that bribery is indeed a form of corruption.

3.6.2. Unfair treatment

Currently there seem to be a misconception among the Namibian public on what constitutes corruption, often Human Rights, Domestic Violence and Gender issues are also perceived to be corrupt practices. Thus the survey sought to establish perception of respondents on whether unfair treatment constitutes corruption. The figure above shows that 54.0% of respondents considered unfair treatment as corrupt practice, 30.0% said it does not constitute corruption, 15.5% did not respond. The result from the survey seem to confirm that majority of the Namibian public perceive the issues mentioned above as a corrupt practice, thus a lot of effort needs to be put in educating the public on what constitutes corruption.

3.6.3. Abuse of power by Public Officers

This subject raises a lot of inquisitiveness as majority of respondents 27.7% in this survey were Public Officers. The figure above shows that 67.1% of respondents considered Abuse of power by Public Officer as a corrupt practice, 18.8% said abuse of power does not constitute corrupt practice, others did not respond (14.1%). The result shows that both Public Officers and the public seems to have a clear idea on certain responsibilities of Public Officers.

3.7. What would you do if you are aware that someone has committed corruption?

Reporting corruption has been one of the major campaigns which the anti-corruption Commission has embarked upon since its inception. The survey sought to establish whether respondents supported the campaign of reporting corruption. About 80% of the respondents indicate they will report corruption if they see it being perpetrated, 2.8 % said they would not report corruption, others (13.6%) did not respond. By having 80% of the respondents indicating their willingness to report corruption, shows the respondents' support to fight corruption in Namibia.

3.8. Reason for not reporting corruption

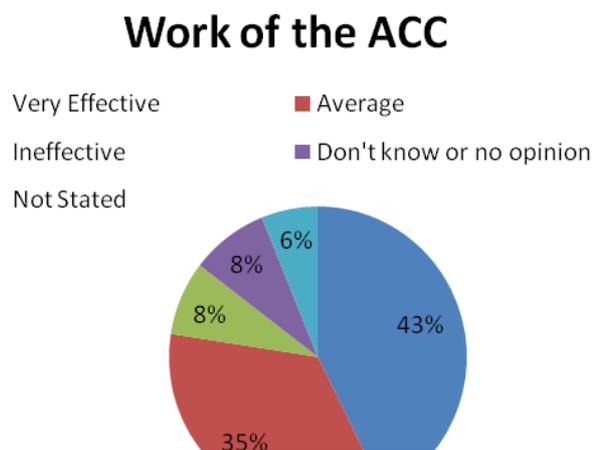
Why people do not report corruption	Female	Male	Not Stated	Total
	Percent			
Do not know where	19	26	26.7	23
Do not know How	14	13	6.7	13
Concerned of getting in trouble if they report	47	42	53.3	45
Think nothing will happen to the perpetrator	10	8	6.7	9
The process of reporting in too complicated	2	4		3
Corruption is justified under current economic situation	1	2		1
Not Stated	7	5	6.7	6
Total	100	100	100.0	100

Figure 4: Reasons for not reporting Corruption

There seem to be a general fear of getting in trouble when it comes to reporting corruption, 45 % of respondents cited getting in trouble as the reason for them not to report corruption, 22.5% indicated that they do not know where to report corruption issues, 13.1% do not know how to report, 8.9 think that nothing will happen even if they were to report corrupt cases, 2.8% said that the process of reporting is too complicated and only 1.4% said that corruption is justified under current economic situation. There are very wide opinions on the reason for not reporting corruption in Namibia. Although the majority of respondents (45.1%) said they were afraid of getting in trouble other respondents had different opinions suggests an in-depth analysis of all the responses in to form a consensus.

3.9. Anti-Corruption Commission Work

Figure 5: Effectiveness of the ACC



work

Although the Commission has just started its operations four years ago, there seem to be consensus among respondents on the effectiveness of the Anti-Corruption Commission work. The majority of respondents 43% indicated that the work of Commission was very effective and 35% said it was average. It shows that the general public recognizes the significance of the Commission's work.

4. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1. Conclusion

The mini Survey presents a comprehensive picture on the level of corruption in Namibia, although the responses varied greatly, majority of respondents felt that corruption in Namibia is high. However, the majority of the respondents have cited the reason for not reporting corruption as fear for getting in trouble. It, therefore, presents a significant challenge to the Commission to devise effective strategies to ensure that people are not afraid of reporting corruption.

It is fulfilling to note that the majority of the respondents recognize the work of the Commission. It thus, encourages the Commission to augment its programs and activities to ensure that the confidence the public bestows upon the Commission is maintained. Surprisingly, a great number of respondents identified bribery as one form of corruption which is a very good sign as bribery is one of the most common forms of corruption in Namibia.

However, although a great number of respondents seemed to have identified bribery as a form of corruption there are still some ambiguous responses when it comes to differentiating corrupt practices with other issues such as Human Rights, Domestic Violence and Gender issues. This presents a challenge to the Commission to enhance its awareness Programs on what constitute corruption hence a bulk of reported corruption cases are referred to relevant authority.

Therefore radical measures are still needed as to enhance the fight against corruption.

4.2. Recommendations

1. The ACC should conduct a Nation-wide survey to get findings that can represent the whole country
2. Enhance ACC outreach programs to all regions and constituency level
3. Assist stakeholders to develop and enforce codes of conducts and ethics in their institutions
4. More effort should be encouraged to raise integrity levels of professional associations and groups
5. Enhance active involvement of Civil Society, NGO`s including Faith Based Organizations (FBO) in corruption activities

5. REFERENCES

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