

# Corruption Is Stealing

AS far as I am concerned and to the best of my knowledge corruption is the practice of stealing in a given administrative system. In this practice persons in positions of authority abuse power to either steal, defraud or accept bribes for personal financial gain to maintain a specific standard of living.

The primary objective is that politicians and political appointees are very uncertain of their careers, since in some cases they handle the positions effectively and efficiently. Once again in the event of those appointed in lower positions the wages are very low or alternatively they are being used as part and parcel of syndicates to facilitate corrupt practices, simply because they are entrusted with certain responsibilities. Therefore, in my opinion we don't need a new law on stealing, because it is misconduct or any unprecedented practice as stipulated in the code of conduct or rules and regulations of any given institution. Furthermore, the Namibian Constitution clearly stipulates that nobody is above this supreme law and could be prosecuted for whatever offence committed, especially in the true spirit and sense of our democracy. Otherwise, you are exempting several political figures and their followers from being prosecuted and

subsequently allowing them to steal, to be bribed and to defraud companies. etc.

We could have rather introduced stiffer sentences for corruption and stealing against any person who makes himself guilty thereof. I support the views and proposals of those Parliamentarians who said that the National Assembly and the Judges should be involved with the appointment of Directors and Investigating Officers respectively. We have seen what happened in many African and other countries according to the listing by Transparency International. Is that not a sufficient wake-up call to advance our democratic governance? Is it not again establishing a Truth and Reconciliation Commission to hear atrocities committed by certain regimes and political parties, if you exempt certain leaders from prosecution?

Finally, I welcome the constructive contributions being made by some Parliamentarians to ensure that it becomes a law for all Namibians. I therefore suggest that the Bill be referred to public hearings, since in most cases we are talking about and dealing with public funds/taxpayers money etc. I hope we will find an amicable solution as real democrats.

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