

The Centre for Good Governance in Africa at Hugenote: Work in Progress Concept Discussion Document

Fighting Corruption: Bringing Value Driven Communities Back into Direct Action

Fighting Corruption: Bringing Value Driven Communities Back into Direct Action

1. Introduction and Orientation

Like Covid 19, corruption is also a global pandemic.

And, as is the case with Covid19, South Africa is one of the hardest hit countries by the pandemic of corruption.

This is confirmed by South African leaders.

President Ramaphosa, in his address to the nation on Sunday evening 26 July 2020, stated his concerns as follows:

“... what concerns me, and what concerns all South Africans, are those instances where funds are stolen, where they are misused, where goods are overpriced, where food parcels are diverted from needy households – where there is corruption and mismanagement of public funds. From the outset of our response to the pandemic, we have been quite clear that there should be no scope for corruption in the use of these resources. More so than at any other time, corruption puts lives at risk.”

In his Christmas sermon of 2019, the Anglican Archbishop of Cape Town, Bishop Thabo Makgoba, expressed his concerns, wishes and prayers, related to corruption in the following way:

“... we hope it is 'the year of the orange jumpsuit', a year of reckoning for those whose greed has driven the country to the brink of disaster. ... there must be consequences for corruption, both for those in the private sector who facilitate it and those in the public sector who take advantage of it. The justice, the peace, the reconciliation and the abundant life which a flourishing democracy promises will be achieved only if those who threaten to subvert it are held accountable. So, I pray that our hope is not misplaced.”

2. The Context and Challenges

Under conditions of pandemic corruption, there are many conventional community-based reactions and responses to corruption. These conventional ways are aimed at involving the relevant societal institutions through activism and advocacy into actions to prevent and react to corruption. Such mobilizing for action usually is driven through advocacy and activism aiming that the formal institutions, using their mandates and authority, act against corruption.

This is a necessary response. However, it is not a sufficient response.

Corruption continues unabated. Integrity is on the retreat. The corrupt conquers. The rat race is over and the rats won!

One reason, and there may be many more, for this lack of success and impact, is that the community calls on the very corrupt and their very corrupt institutions to act against themselves. And, not unexpectedly, there is lacking enthusiasm and very little appetite from the side of the corrupt to act against their own selfish and corrupt interests.

The time has come to act in socially innovative ways to mobilise and sustain direct community level pro-integrity community action in dealing with corruption. This has to be actioned in all of the constituting

The Centre for Good Governance in Africa at Hugenote: Work in Progress Concept Discussion Document

Fighting Corruption: Bringing Value Driven Communities Back into Direct Action

systemic parts in the corruption “value chain”. This also has to be dealt with directly with local and national action as well as local and national activism.

3. The Big and Bold Idea, Institutionalisation and Implementation

A socially innovative movement and campaign towards pro-integrity and away from corruption requires big and bold ideas, professional institutionalisation and impactful implementation. These elements have to be carefully designed and delivered in appropriate layers and phases. The required activism and action are then carefully legitimized and legalized.

The big and bold idea here, linked to institutionalisation and implementation, therefore, is to:

- design, deliver and drive direct systemic societal and community responses towards integrity and anti-corruption, using activism, advocacy and action;
- institutionalize this intent through community-based networks and partnerships using activism, advocacy and action to combat corruption and deliver integrity; and
- impactfully implement the required activism, advocacy and active action-based strategies by bringing value driven communities back into direct compassionate action from the bottom up and up to the top.

An institutional format, which will be considered to institutionalise and implement this big and bold idea, is the social or living lab construct, with a hub and spoke network of coordinating and cooperating social labs based primarily in local value driven communities.

All of the innovative work done will be grounded into a knowledge based social innovation ecosystem theoretical framework and methodology and linked to learning social innovation processes where knowledge is gained and shared. In this way the individual competencies of role players will be built and the institutional capacity of the respective labs will be re-inforced through shared practice and theory.

4. Phases and Layers

Phase 1 layer 1 of this process is dealt with in this document. Further phases and layers will emerge as the role players immerse into the co-creative and collaborative process.

Phase 1 layer 2 starts with a first step legitimization process through sharing this document for comment to a first group of potential network partners. Layers 2 and 3 are then to receive and integrate comments received into an emerging documented strategy.

Phase 2, layer 1 is to share, for further legitimization this plan in an interactive Zoom meeting in the shorter term with relevant and interested potential network partners. Layer 2 of phase 2 is to proceed with further implementation of the strategy and plan subsequent to the Zoom meeting as informed by inputs from the initial group attending the Zoom meeting.

Further phases will then emerge.

In a planned further phase, the strategy and plan will be finalised at a launch conference and workshops linked to the partners and organized by the partners under the auspices of the Centre for Good Governance in Africa at the Hugenote School of Social Innovation and hosted at the Andrew Murray Center in Wellington as implementation partner.

**The Centre for Good Governance in Africa at Hugonote: Work in Progress Concept Discussion
Document
Fighting Corruption: Bringing Value Driven Communities Back into Direct Action**

5. Legitimation and Legalisation

The legitimization phase for the first layers will be concluded at the envisaged conference at the end of 2020 and the legalization process will start after the Conference.

6. Next Steps

6.1. Circulate this document for input and comment to possible network partners.

6.2. Receive input before and during a **Zoom Webinar to be held Thursday 13 August 2020 from 09:00 to 12:00.**

6.3. Decide on next steps after the Zoom webinar.

Draft 2 of 2: Erwin Schwella, Bellville, Friday 31 July 2020,