

7 Regulations and inefficient controls. Increased regulations and control mechanisms are probably not the answer. They are costly and tend to stifle initiatives and administrative dynamics. But why not have better regulation and more effective control in areas prone to corruption. Is that so difficult?

8 Slow judicial processes. In some other countries, we would have to add “and unreliable” to that statement. Swift processes can have a greater exemplifying effect than those that, by the time the sentence comes, the crime already is nearly forgotten. Justice requires appealing processes and warranties, but not if it means slowing down the administration of justice. Do we need more judges, but also better processes?

9 Lack of moral criteria in promotions. Corruption is prevalent when there are no criteria for proven integrity and responsibility in the promotion. Such criteria are ignored when someone is promoted simply because of their loyalty to whoever is in charge or those in control of the party. Or if it is only their strategic or organizational skills that are evaluated. Obviously, someone can be wrong when making a promoting someone, but there should be no problem distinguishing between a simple mistake and culpable ignorance due to negligence or a lack of ethical assessment. Is it an issue of ethical shortsightedness?

10 Downplaying or reacting mildly to corruption charges. Little power of decision within organizations to penalize acts of corruption to set examples creates an environment conducive to perpetuating corruption.

In sum, there are various reasons — personal (1 to 4), cultural (5, 6), institutional (7, 8) and organizational (9 and 10) — applicable, on a greater or lesser scale, to different cultural and geographical environments. And we can clearly see that a proper diagnosis of the causes will bolster the fight against corruption.

BY DOMÈNEC MELÉ

Posted on November 6, 2014

FORCES of CORRUPTION



Public Servant



Businessmen



Bribery

Definition

Corruption is a form of **DISHONESTY** or **CRIMINAL ACTIVITY** undertaken by a person or organization entrusted with a position of authority, often to acquire illicit benefit.



NETWORK FOR JUSTICE

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**COMMUNITY
OUTREACH**

**ON THE
Implementation
To The
FIGHT AGAINST
CORRUPTION
AND PROMOTING
GOOD GOVERNANCE IN
NIGERIA**

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About Us

The **Network for Justice** has been conceived essentially as a forum for all those who wish to promote the cause of justice and save this country from the disaster that is waiting to happen. The **Network for Justice** wishes to develop a formidable Network of people who will curb the growing excesses and injustices in our society. The **Network for Justice** believes that nothing is nobler or more honourable than this fight against the pervading injustices, and corruption at this sad juncture in time and in the history of this country!

Our Objectives

- 🌐 To develop public awareness about the injustices, inequities and corruption in Nigeria and the need, indeed necessity, for the rule of law.
- 🌐 To help the weak, the poor and the oppressed to achieve justice not only in law courts but also in everyday activities of life outside the law courts.
- 🌐 To nurture deeper appreciation among our people throughout the country of the need for honesty, probity and rectitude in all dealings and at all levels of society.
- 🌐 To raise national consciousness on the crucial importance of fostering attitudes, values and ideals, at both personal and societal (community) levels, which are necessary for the attainment of justice in society.
- 🌐 To recruit and mobilize all individuals and groups, across the country, who are committed to the cause of justice, equity and probity, towards the realization of a just and humane society.

Services

Human Rights Protection, Anti-Corruption, Consumer Rights protection & Political Rights Awareness

In the pursuit of our objectives, we developed a four-item agenda for a start. These are as follows:

HUMAN RIGHTS PROTECTION

This aims at exposing and fighting the misuse of judicial power by all judicial personnel covering the police, courts, prisons and the traditional institutions of our society; cognizance is taken of our diversity in values, culture and aspirations. The regimentation that had characterized our past political arrangements is not only unjust and-unfair, it constitutes the greatest source of our political instability.

ANTI-CORRUPTION CAMPAIGN

This aims at exposing and fighting corruption especially by public officials who (by the stroke of the pen) swindle large sums of money put in their trust, sums which would have otherwise gone into the service of the wider

society. This rampant robbery (extremely recurring and devastating to Nigeria) is not only depriving us of good schools, good hospitals, good and safe roads and efficient social services, but far more serious, it is eroding and subverting our morals and suffocating the whole society to a standstill, retardation and apparent regression.

CONSUMER RIGHTS PROTECTION

Aims at exposing dangerous substances contained in food products. The goal is to inform the general public on the existence of sub-standard and fake drugs that have pervaded and/or may pervade the Nigerian market. The agenda also aims at creating, raising and sustaining public awareness on the dangers/hazards of industrial and environmental pollution to the health of the people.

POLITICAL RIGHTS AWARENESS

The aim of this agenda is to educate the people on the necessity and desirability for credible political participation, political tolerance, political accommodation and dialogue in our minute and broad socio-economic and political relations. The essence is to promote harmonious relations in line with the spirit of Nigeria's religious and ethnic pluralism and federalism so that full cognizance of our diverse values, cultures and aspirations are taken into consideration in our daily activities.

Corruption: 10 Possible Causes



Transparency International annually publishes its Corruption Perception Index. It includes a range of countries, from the least corrupt to those with the most widespread corruption. There are too many countries with a low grade.

Why is it that in some countries not only the perception, but actual cases are on the rise? I believe there is probably a variety of independent causes of corruption. Identifying those causes is the first step toward

implementing steps to prevent and deter the phenomenon.

Corruption Perception Index 2013, form Transparency International. Click to enlarge.

I would like to throw out 10 possible causes, and raise a number of questions for consideration:

- 1 Personal greed that leads to an unfettered desire for money or power, with no regard whatsoever to moral boundaries. The underlying anthropological cause is the innate human impulse to own external goods, when it is not subject to personal integrity. Is personal integrity less valued than it used to be? Is there a need for religious or other types of motivation that were once stronger?
- 2 Decline of personal ethical sensitivity, either due to lack of education or negative learning experiences, developed by downplaying perverse conduct in the past. Should ethical education be put under review? Is it time for a personal reassessment with sincerity and repentance, to learn more about its influence in promoting positive learning?
- 3 No sense of service when working in public or private institutions. This is seen, for instance, in those who use politics for their selfish interests, instead of serving the common good through politics. How can we promote politicians and leaders with a true service-oriented spirit?
- 4 Low awareness or lack of courage to denounce corrupt behavior and situations conducive to corruption. That is the case of someone who is aware of corruption and stays quiet. They simply cover for the corrupt individuals, perhaps thinking that it is not their problem, or perhaps out of cowardice, so as not to make their lives more complicated. Would it help to promote a culture of denouncing corruption?
- 5 Cultural environments that condone corruption. Such as defending or even admiring crooks ("you have to be pretty smart to evade taxes"). Or rationalizing false arguments with no moral basis ("everyone does it"; "take advantage while you can"; "life is short"). Who ought to promote that culture? Social leaders? Everyone?
- 6 Lack of transparency, especially at the institutional level, but also in less formal organizations. Knowing that what you do is seen by everyone, wouldn't that deter acts of corruption?