

a news service from transparency international-kenya

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## KENYANS ON THE STATE OF CORRUPTION

A new survey carried out by Transparency International-Kenya reveals that 59% of Kenyans consider corruption to be the number one national issue.

The research was conducted among males and females over 18 in eight urban and rural areas in Kenya. These were Nairobi, Mombasa, Kisumu, Kiambu, Eldoret, Garissa, Kakamega, Kajiado and Machakos. A total of 2324 people were interviewed.

The survey sought, among others, to determine public opinion on the current state of politics in Kenya, corruption in the government and judiciary, the government's performance and anti-corruption initiatives undertaken by the government.

On the general state of politics, 32% of Kenyans are satisfied, 25% are unsatisfied while 43% are non-committal. With regard to the government's performance, 43% said it was good while 10% stated it was poor.

### Specific findings on Corruption

When asked whether the government is committed to the fight against corruption, various opinions emerged. 80% of Kenyans believe that the government is committed to the fight against corruption. 68% believe that corruption is decreasing while 85% believe that the NARC Government is cleaner than its predecessor- the KANU government.

However, 35% say that corruption is a problem in the current government with 50% of respondents observing that tribalism/nepotism, bribery and public procurement are felt concerns. 66% of the respondents would like to see corrupt ministers sacked.

### Specific findings on the Judiciary

With regard to the Judiciary, only 10% stated that corruption does not affect the Judiciary to a great extent. Nevertheless, Kenyans are focusing on service delivery as a problem over and above graft. 49% complained of delays in passing judgments.

Judges are not held in high esteem. 47% of respondents would call the Judges of the High Court and Court of Appeal

corrupt while 35% said the same thing about the Magistrates' courts. In order of preference, the following measures to tackle corruption in the Judiciary are recommended: 87% would like corrupt judges and magistrates sacked and prosecuted; 24% would like to see an independent enquiry into the Judiciary; while 13% propose frequent transfers of judicial personnel from station to station in order to reduce the temptations of familiarity.

*...corruption is a problem in the current government with 50% of respondents observing that tribalism/nepotism, bribery and public procurement are felt concerns...*

### Anti-corruption initiatives

On Kenyans knowledge of anti-corruption initiatives and assessment of their chances of success, the following emerged:

	Knowledge	Chances of success
Goldenberg Commission	57%	56%
Anti-Corruption & Econ Crimes Act	26%	55%
Public Officer Ethics (Declaration of Wealth)	22%	44%
Creation of Ministry of Justice & Constitutional Affairs	10%	44%
Ringera Anti-Corruption Judicial Committee	9%	53%
Office of Governance and Ethics	5%	40%

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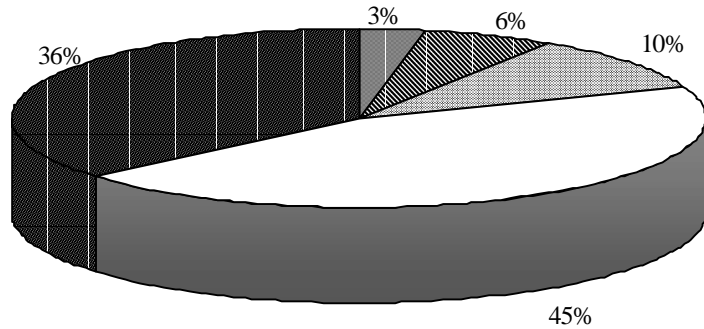
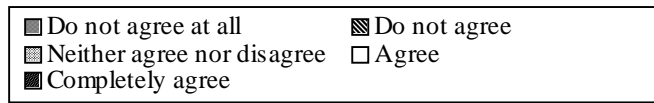
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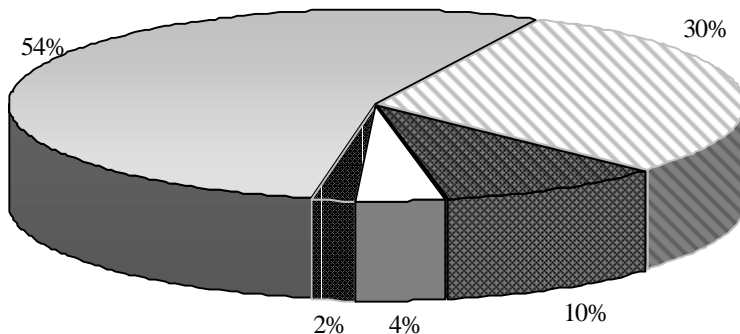
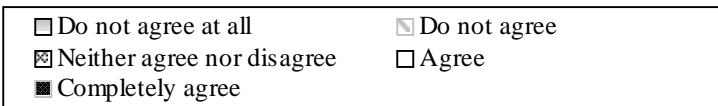
## Kenyans on the state of corruption

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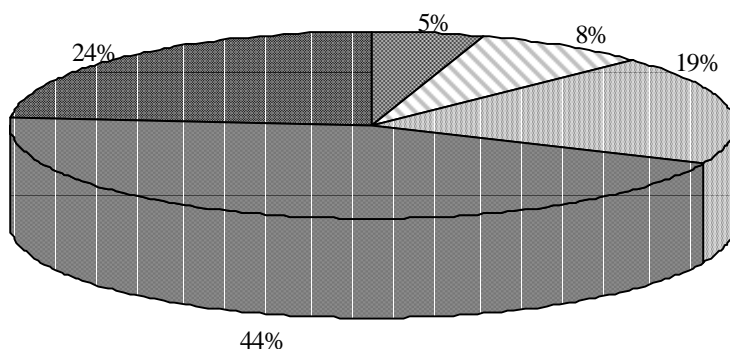
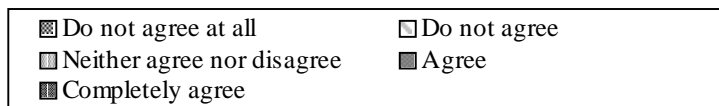
### GOVERNMENT COMMITTED TO FIGHTING CORRUPTION



### NARC GOVERNMENT MORE CORRUPT THAN PREVIOUS KANU REGIME



### MOST AGREE THAT CORRUPTION IS DECREASING IN KENYA



### Insights

Although a significant proportion of the population are happy with the current state of politics, the majority are neither happy nor unhappy – a neutral position that could shift either way. Likewise an equal proportion of the population rates the government’s performance as positive or average. Given the high number of people selecting ‘average’, it implies a huge segment of the population are adopting a “wait-and-see” attitude

The high spontaneous awareness of corruption as a vice in the country is not an indictment of the current government’s performance but a reflection of its success in heightening the importance of the vice through the often-stated anti-corruption agenda. The current government’s efforts to fight corruption have been noted and appreciated by most people. However, the public think that the judicial system is corrupt with judges and magistrates carrying most of the blame.

With regard to ministers who are deemed corrupt, the public is clear that they should be sacked. Failure to do so may be seen as the government’s silent support of the ministers’ actions, or its unwillingness to deal with corruption

There is generally a high level of awareness of the government’s initiatives to fight corruption with the Goldenberg Commission being prominent. This is obviously media driven, as it has received and continues to receive good media coverage. The key lesson here is that it is not enough for the government to launch the initiatives; it also needs to have intensive publicity campaigns to create and sustain awareness of them.

There is insignificant support for unconditional amnesty. Kenyans do not want to forgive. The public are aware of various past and current major problems that they would like addressed, mostly through prosecution.

## ANTI-CORRUPTION EFFORTS: CLEAR STRATEGIES REQUIRED

*TI-Kenya sought the opinions of various individuals on the current state of corruption in Kenya, the government's efforts to combat it and suggestions on what needs to be done.*

**Cecily Mbarire, nominated MP, NARC**

Corruption is still there and we have a long way to go before we can stamp it out. It should be noted, however, that it is not as rampant as before and there is the political will to address it which is a very important component in the fight against corruption. There are some people who are saying that corruption has gone high-tech or it has been privatized, but there are no facts to support such arguments.

Corruption is a cancer that had taken root for 24 years, so it is not possible to clean it up in 10 months. But what has taken place in the last 10 months is quite remarkable. The passing into law of the Anti-Corruption and Economic Crimes bill is a major move especially since the previous regime worked very hard to suppress it. The fact that people have finally accepted to declare their wealth is also a positive development in the fight against corruption. This is something that could not have happened in the last regime.

The cleaning up of the judiciary is another welcome move that will help minimize corruption in the whole judicial system. However, the judges should also be given an opportunity to be heard and defend themselves. The anti-corruption commission advisory board members have also been appointed and they too will make their contribution in the anti-corruption fight.

What I would recommend is that, since corruption manifests itself in many ways and re-invents itself, the people accorded the responsibility to investigate and fight corruption should be adequately empowered and equipped with the relevant information, technology, training and other resources. They should be well paid so as to avoid the temptation of being corrupt. People fighting corruption and are poorly paid have higher chances of being corrupt.

The government should also clean up the police force because it plays an important role in preventing and fighting corruption, and policemen should therefore be provided with the necessary resources including better pay.

I know our efforts will bear fruit. What we need is time because the problem is too deep-rooted in our society. Kenyans should be patient and I am sure we will see great changes in the next one and a half years.

**Dr. Tom Wolf, Consultant**

It is too early to assess adequately the government's effort in the war against corruption. Some legislations have been passed and public servants are declaring wealth though nobody knows what they are declaring. Cleaning up the judiciary is going on and will also take quite some time before any careful and thorough examination of the outcome is known.

With regard to corruption, impunity has been key among those in high positions, both elective offices and civil servants. Until and unless Kenyans see well known people about whom rumours of massive corruption have been around for years charged and convicted, whatever steps the government has taken up to now or will take, will be viewed very cynically. There has to be some fairly high level people who will be called to account for their deeds. Otherwise tackling petty corruption such as bribery by traffic police will be of minor consequence.

The question of what to do with former President Moi is very sensitive. A few months ago some Rift Valley MPs threatened there would be chaos if he was called to testify personally at the Goldenberg Commission of Inquiry. Whether Moi is personally required to do so is of less relevance in the long term efforts against corruption as opposed to those who were actually corrupt around him. Going after him at this stage would politicise the corruption issue and make it look like witch-hunting. Some of these people who used to surround him and have been adversely mentioned in corruption, don't even have public esteem even among their own constituents. We want to see what is going to happen to them and other evidence adduced from ongoing initiatives.

We also want to see whether this government has the political will to include on its list of corrupt people its own high level members in cabinet and elsewhere. We know how fragile this coalition seems to be. We have heard of the no-confidence motion, LDP making liaisons with KANU, and threats on the constitutional reforms among others. The government may not be comfortable pointing fingers, victimizing, or taking appropriate legal action against some of its own members some of whom are loudly supporting it now, but may have to be called to account for some of the things they did in the previous government. This is another issue that will test the political will of government.

Overall, there is a feeling that when you are in power you have access to some benefits regardless of where they come from or however you got them. It is not clear whether the fight against corruption is coming from the tax payers, the government itself, the donors or the business community. It is not very clear if there is any serious motivation to fight corruption where its most important constituency is.

The government is still young and it has put some measures and institutions in place but the verdict is still not yet out- like who will be the first high profile person since independence in this country to end up in jail? Will we have to await the building of a three star hotel-type prison for the members of the political elite? Have we had any information that anyone guilty of economic crime has had a quiet discussion with the government to surrender stolen assets? What type of instruments will have to be in place before such negotiations begin? And many other things that have to be done before things start rolling.

## ...clear strategies required

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### **Sam Mwaura, Kenya Private Sector Fund**

The situation has greatly improved. Last year things were almost out of control. We are now in a situation in which the government is genuinely committed to fighting corruption, but is still far from the ideal situation.

The government does not have adequate machinery. Equally important is the fact that not everybody in government is committed to fighting corruption.

The worst of this is that the political leadership leading the campaign is relying on the corrupt civil service. This is the major weakness that we have.

The solution is for the government to partner with the private sector because the private sector understands corruption among the civil servants. It can always review the recommendations of the civil servants and provide an alternative view especially when information from these quarters is aimed at protecting the dark side of the civil servants by providing the political leadership with false, distorted and incorrect information. The government has not established the machinery for working with the private sector in this regard, but we are in a position to make proposals and see how this can be achieved.

If we do not put up the necessary infrastructure, the leadership tends to become more comfortable as time goes by, and temptations to be corrupt begin to creep in. So we should put structures in place and manage politicians so

### **Julius Sunkuli, KANU MP**

Corruption in Kenya has not reduced, yet part of the NARC government's agenda during the last general election was to fight corruption. But this no longer forms part of their plans. I do not think anybody in NARC is worried about corruption anymore. For example, there is certainly a manifest change in the lifestyle of the current ministers who were in the opposition previously. Some of those ministers are now buying land worth millions of shillings, but were not known to be capable of doing so during the KANU regime. It is also rumoured that some ministers who were facing bankruptcy are now very rich. The police still continue receiving bribes while the district commissioners are

as corrupt as ever. Nobody is bothered to address any of these corrupt practices so we continue paying for public services

There is nothing new the NARC government has done except sacking judges. There are laws awaiting implementation, but what is lacking is the political will- the same thing they used to accuse KANU of lacking.

On the issue of Goldenberg, I can say that the NARC government has experts to deal more with the past than with the future. They just want to dig into the past and portray KANU as bad.

that they don't fall prey to various temptations. However, we cannot leave this struggle to the politicians alone. The private sector, civil society and government must work together.

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***Corrupt people within the private sector place the clean ones at a major competitive disadvantage... the private sector has serious commercial interests in policing its own members so as to keep them corrupt free and also ensure a level playing ground.***

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The private sector is coming up with its own programme, and one measure we are now pursuing is self-policing and self-regulation mechanisms within the sector so that we are able to police our own members. Corrupt

people within the private sector place the clean ones at a major competitive disadvantage. So the private sector has serious commercial interests in policing its own members so as to keep them corrupt free and also ensure a level playing ground.

The government has put in place various structures to address corruption among which the new Kenya Anti-Corruption Commission (KACC) is key. Other structures we will be recommending are the creation of the office of the ombudsman with countrywide offices and the setting up of police complaints centres so that when you are aggrieved by a policeman you can report him or her to an independent centre and not to one of his colleagues. We also want to get different sectors into self-policing. This will be the most powerful way of controlling mega corruption. So if the government assists the private sector to self-regulate and devolves some of the regulatory authority to associations in the sector, then we will all be on the right path.

### **Fr. Dominic Wamugunda, Chaplain, St. Pauls, Nairobi**

The government is certainly doing something in the fight against corruption. For instance, the cleaning up of the judiciary is a great step so there is hope that things are going to be better than before. When people are used to operating in a corrupt way, they always look for loopholes or ways to play hide and seek so as to avoid being caught hence satisfy their greed. We may not get rid of corruption totally but when there is the goodwill to stop it and steps are being taken, it is very encouraging.

## ...clear strategies required

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### **James Nduku, Kenya Human Rights Commission**

The only difference between the NARC regime and the Kenyatta and Moi regimes is that more rhetoric against corruption is being produced. Bribery among our traffic policemen is almost the same as before, no action has been taken regarding allegations of corruption among ministers. No one has mentioned intentions of investigations in these cases. There is a lot of rhetoric. There is a lot of talk going on with no concrete action.

However, we ought to give credit where it is due. For instance, the cleaning up of the judiciary is really taking place in terms of steps and action being taken in fighting corruption. There is nothing happening with regard to corruption taking place in City Hall, the police force, and many other such areas.

I believe that each department, organization and institution should have a watchdog body. Such bodies should be independent and should come from another department other than the one being watched. We should also encourage the creation of people-based organizations in churches, NGOs and private sector among others, to help monitor corruption in these sectors.

### **Kangethe Mungai, Release Political Prisoners**

We have been working at the grassroots and nothing has changed there in relation to corruption. Our findings indicate that things are as they used to be or even worse, for instance, corruption among the traffic police is worse than before.

Speaking against corruption, putting up anti-corruption notices and taking appropriate action such as is happening in the judiciary is welcome and is a good beginning. The wealth declaration was a good step but there must be other practical ways of addressing corruption. The government must design a master plan, with very concrete strategies to fight corruption. Otherwise, corruption will just manifest itself in other forms.

The government should aim to follow the same path as it did with the judiciary and remove all corrupt people in the various bodies. But we need to understand that one of the main frustrations the government is facing is that it still has corrupt people from the past regime and rhetoric alone will not expose these people. Rather, it must promptly deal with people known to be corrupt.

***The government must design a master plan, with very concrete strategies to fight corruption... otherwise, corruption will just manifest itself in other forms.***

### **Economist.**

The overall status has improved significantly. Corruption has substantially decreased over the last couple of months. But there are a number of questionable government transactions that have taken place, particularly to do with awarding of contracts for insurance where the procurement procedures have not been followed. We are talking about quite a large amount of money. Generally there is some improvement, but there are serious black spots that have not had much accountability when such issues are raised and the government does not pursue the issue or make clarifications.

The decrease in corruption, however, should not be overstated. We have seen examples of large scale corruption where questions have been asked and opinions aired, but the situation is not ideal yet.

The legal infrastructure is an encouraging initiative but passing of legislations is among the easiest things. What we now need is proper implementation backed by goodwill and the capacity to implement such legislations effectively.

The government should not re-invent the wheel on corruption. It should go out and borrow ideas and experiences from countries that have tried different solutions and see what is best for us. We can bring in expertise to make it a much easier operation, as the government capacity has been run down. We also need to bring into the civil service technical expertise and build capacity, especially since it is difficult for a civil servant who has been in the service for many years to implement a piece of legislation to correct or reform himself.

### **Jamhuri Joel, People Against Torture**

Corruption is still as rampant as before although not as glaring as it used to be. For instance, there are complaints that some of our ministers and recently appointed CEOs have amassed wealth within the last few months and on our roads, matatu people continue bribing policemen.

Despite this, the government has done a superb job and is fully committed to fight corruption. Therefore, there is hope that we are heading in the right direction as we try to eradicate corruption. In the public's opinion, corruption has relatively reduced.

We, however, cannot say the government is doing all it can. It can do much more and more so it must be well prepared to face the challenges stemming from corrupt people within the system.

## CORRUPTION: SHARED EXPERIENCES BETWEEN KENYA AND CAMEROON

*By Osendo Con Omoro*

The first thing that will amaze you when you see Yaoundé town in Cameroon at dawn and at dusk is the number of people jogging and exercising on the empty highways and large, well kept roundabouts. Cars are packed by the roadside as people strive to keep fit. A good number of these people will be donning the Cameroonian National Soccer team jersey. The Cameroonian soccer team has just clinched the gold at the All Africa Games in Abuja and is also the current titleholder of the Africa Cup of Nations. When Marc Vivien Foe died, Cameroonians wept openly in the streets, in the fields and everywhere. He was accorded a burial befitting a president and the government is completing the stadium he had begun building.

Soccer passion provides a good “national escape” from the corruption and poverty that Cameroonians experience. It made me start racking my brain trying to think of what provides an escape for Kenyans to relax from the immature, politics and name-calling going on in the country, not forgetting the amazing corruption allegations currently being peddled against the ruling party. Our sports men and women are not at their peak this season. Probably the pubs that are currently making a killing from Kenyans, who are discussing their problems, are providing the much-needed escape, albeit temporary and short lived.

The Transparency International All Africa Conference held in Yaoundé in October 2003 had an interesting aspect to it: music, essay, theatre and cartoon competitions depicting the theme of corruption. Interestingly, the police are perceived as the most corrupt just as they are in Kenya. The traffic police are also notorious and ask for IDs and passports from passengers any time between 7p.m. and the wee hours of the morning. Woe unto you if you do not have your ID. It is strange that IDs are demanded from drivers as opposed to Kenya where walking at night is considered loitering if you do not have an ID.

Back to the conference, a young Cameroonian artist who passed on a strong message through a very simple drawing won the best cartoon depicting corruption: Policemen on alert saluting to a flag that had been hoisted. They have parked their motorbikes beside the flagpole. The flag is a 1,000 Cameroonian Franc (CFA) bill. Ngonye Mbondy Jean Calvin composed a French song, “La Corruption”, that won in the music category. You could tell that it was a well-done song. His profession: a policeman.

Cameroon was ranked fifth while Kenya was ranked sixth in the annual Transparency International’s Corruption Perception’s Index. Kenya and Cameroon have a number

of similarities in their experiences. Both have had similar experiences dealing with corruption. Cameroon’s 20 year regime under former President Ahmadou Ahijou were very repressive years though there was good investment in agriculture, education and transport. Kenya, under the founding President Jomo Kenyatta, also had its fair share of kleptocracy and repression for the fifteen years he ruled, but also enjoyed tremendous economic growth that was interrupted by the escalation of oil prices and massive reduction of coffee prices.

***institutions in both countries that are noted for massive corruption include the police, judiciary, public finance and public contracts***

Journalists have suffered in the hands of the ruling elite in both countries and especially under current President Paul Biya of Cameroon and immediate former Kenyan President, Daniel Moi. Journalists have been detained, killed, suppressed and trailed. Currently, the media industry is relatively free though pockets of intimidation continue to exist. Also the Media Bill published seven months before Kenya’s General Election in 2002 raised publishing fees and increased government control over the print media.

Kenya and Cameroon have set up anti-corruption committees in the public sector to deal with corruption. Kenya’s public sector integrity programme was launched about two years ago but major parastatals that provide billions of tax revenue are still riddled in corruption. Cameroon’s strategy has also come under attack as having not done anything to reduce the levels of corruption. Other institutions in both countries that are noted for massive corruption include the police, judiciary, public finance and public contracts.

Yaoundé International Airport was constructed with the perceived political motive behind our very own Eldoret International Airport. Both airports are relatively empty and inactive and corruption thrives. There are about 10 luggage trolleys in the Yaoundé airport and vendors who charge a small fee to carry your luggage hoard them all. Naturally, those used to airports with an unlimited supply of trolleys for self-service chose to carry their own luggage. Uniformed officers collect passports from willing people on the passport control queue for faster service in exchange for a small fee.

But all hope is not lost. The Prime Minister of Cameroon echoes our own President with his firm commitment to fight corruption and pledges his support to the efforts of every stakeholder especially Transparency International. The Cameroonian government’s anti-corruption campaign is placed under his office.

## TI WISHES JEREMY POPE ALL THE BEST ON HIS DEPARTURE FROM TI SECRETARIAT

Jeremy Pope, Director of the TI Centre for Innovation and Research, left the TI Secretariat on 9 October. Jeremy served as founding Managing Director of Transparency International (TI), and has made a major contribution to TI over the past decade. TI is the world's leading non-governmental organisation devoted exclusively to the fight against corruption.

Jeremy Pope was Managing Director of TI from January 1994 until the end of 1997, when he became Executive Director in charge of the London office of the TI Secretariat, TI's Centre for Innovation and Research. Jeremy played a key role in building up TI from its position as a fledgling NGO into the worldwide network it is today, with national chapters in close to 90 countries on all continents. Before joining TI, Jeremy worked from 1977 to 1994 as Director of the Legal and

Constitutional Affairs Division of the Commonwealth Secretariat in London, where he was also Legal Adviser to the Commonwealth Secretary-General

Jeremy's vast contribution to TI included his work on the English-language Transparency International Source Book: *Confronting Corruption: The Elements of a National Integrity System*, which has now been translated into more than 20 languages, with major adaptations, including a Francophone Africa version. The TI Source Book can be accessed at [www.transparency.org/sourcebook](http://www.transparency.org/sourcebook).

TI wishes Jeremy all the best in the future, and in his continuing contribution to promoting good governance around the world.

*TI Berlin, 10 Oct. 2003*

## IT'S YOUR DUTY TO REPORT CORRUPTION, SAYS NEW LAW

**Cape Town** - Private sector executives and their staff will no longer be exempted from criminal prosecution for corruption once the Anti-Corruption Bill becomes law. This emerged on Friday at the sitting of the portfolio committee on justice, headed by Johnny de Lange, when it was revealed that executives would be obliged to report corrupt staff to police. "There is going to be a duty to disclose corruption. From now on, the board of directors [of a company] can no longer give one of their kind who has been corrupt a golden handshake and tell them to go and find a job somewhere else, steal from someone else but not from us ... There will be a duty to report it to the police," De Lange said.

The committee is finalising the Anti-Corruption Bill, which has been several years in the making and which will have far-reaching implications for the way corruption is dealt with. It should be passed before April next year. "This bill makes sure that corruption is not seen only as a concept that exists in the public service," he said.

Its definition of bribery, for example, had initially only covered cases where public officials were involved. This had now been broadened to cover the private sector as well because bribes usually came from this source. This was a radical approach that had been adopted in only a few other countries, but the government believed that it was vital to rid the country of decades of protecting people from the consequences of their corruption. "This will stop people who know about these things from keeping quiet about it," he said.

Companies that did not report staff members involved in corruption would themselves be liable for prosecution. This would deal with the "many, many, particularly white-collar crimes that take place" that were not reported or covered up in one way or another. "That type of thing will never happen again in terms of this bill. If it does, then those people that

don't report will be liable for a criminal offence," De Lange said. Those who reported these offences would, in terms of the law, earn public recognition for their action rather than black marks for not reporting the corruption. He admitted that this would require "quite a change in mindset" for many companies, but by giving people the power to "blow the whistle" companies would start taking the problem more seriously rather than trying to hide it.

Various government departments, particularly public service and administration, were "very supportive" of the bill because of their ongoing drive to root out corruption in the public service. They would hopefully help educate both the public and private sectors about the implications of the bill. He appreciated the fact that "like anything else in life, new laws take time to become the norm and the culture, and I think it will take time for us" to see that happen. But the bill complemented the King report on corporate governance, which was aimed at cleaning up the way companies did their business.

One of the provisions of the bill deals with corruption in the government tendering process and the appointment of a registrar who will keep a blacklist of people or companies that have subverted the system. The treasury had been asked to comment on the possible financial implications of setting up such an office and how it could be financed.

De Lange said anyone who tried to cheat the tender process and was found guilty by a court, could then be blacklisted by that court. "That will mean that you cannot get tenders for a period of between five and 10 years." If those found guilty belonged to a company, their specific names would be blacklisted so that any other company they belonged to would also be excluded from government tenders.

*Business Report, 20 Oct. 2003*

## Upcoming Events

3-4 Nov: New Challenges in the Fight Against Corruption- 1st Regional Conference of the African Parliamentarians Network Against Corruption (APNAC)  
Organizers: Transparency International-Kenya and APNAC-Kenya  
Venue: Grand Regency Hotel, Nairobi  
Tel: 254 20 2727763/5 or 2730324/5

5 Nov: Workshop on Anti-Money Laundering and Combating the Financing of Terrorism (AML /CFT)  
Organizers: Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption (GOPAC)  
Venue: Grand Regency Hotel, Nairobi  
Email: [campbme@parl.gc.ca](mailto:campbme@parl.gc.ca)  
Tel: 254 20 2727763/5 or 2730324/5

10-12 Nov: Workshop on Money Laundering, Computer, Crime and Corporate Fraud  
Organizers: KPMG  
Venue: Norfolk Hotel  
Tel: 254 20 222882  
Website: [www.kpmg.co.ke](http://www.kpmg.co.ke)

27 Oct -14 Nov: International Seminar on "Governance, Ethics and Anti-Corruption Reforms"  
Venue: University of Birmingham, Birmingham, UK  
Email: [L.J.Curry@bham.ac.uk](mailto:L.J.Curry@bham.ac.uk)  
Website: [www.idd.bham.ac.uk/short-study/intro.htm](http://www.idd.bham.ac.uk/short-study/intro.htm)

## Think about it...

My message on corruption, this Kenyatta Day, is that the writing is on the wall. We are sending a clear message that the day of reckoning for those who engage in corruption has come. Those who choose to engage in this vice must know they will be called upon to give an account of their actions.

**President Mwai Kibaki, 20 October 2003**

## On a lighter note

Three boys are in the schoolyard bragging of how great their fathers are.

The first one says: "Well, my father runs the fastest. He can fire an arrow, and start to run, I tell you, he gets there before the arrow".

The second one says: "Ha! You think that's fast! My father is a hunter. He can shoot his gun and be there before the bullet".

The third one listens to the other two and shakes his head. He then says: "You two know nothing about fast. My father is a civil servant. He stops working at 4:30 and he is home by 3:45"!!

## NEW CHALLENGES IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION

### 1<sup>st</sup> Regional Conference of the African Parliamentarians Network Against Corruption (APNAC)

The African Parliamentarians Network Against Corruption (APNAC) will hold its first regional conference on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> November 2003 in Nairobi, Kenya. The theme of the conference is New Challenges for Parliamentarians in the Fight Against Corruption.

This conference will convene at least 200 participants with over 50 members of parliament from all over Africa. Other participants will include government representatives, international and regional partners, civil society, the media and representatives from religious organisations. Amongst APNAC's international partners will be representatives from the Canadian Parliamentary Centre.

In keeping with one of APNAC's objectives of sharing information and experiences, the conference will aim to develop an anti-corruption agenda informed by Africa's experiences on corruption issues most afflicting the continent. These include government procurement of goods and services, parliamentary oversight of

government spending and strengthening of the institutions dedicated to the fight against corruption.

Recognising the critical role that parliamentarians as policy makers could play in fighting corruption and increasing good governance through strengthening systems of accountability, transparency and increasing public participation in the governance of African nations, APNAC was formed in 1999 in Uganda stemming from a regional workshop for parliamentarians.

APNAC believes that the forum will strengthen the relations of cooperation and partnership within the African diaspora resulting in enhanced capacity and commitment to overcome corruption and other obstacles facing the continent.

The continental chair of the network is Uganda's MP, Hon. Augustine Ruzindana while APNAC-Kenya is chaired by Hon. Musikari Kombo, Minister for Regional Development.