

Corruption in Africa

A Threat to Justice and Sustainable Peace

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CORRUPTION AND FRAUDULENT CULTURE: THE CASE OF TANZANIA

Conrad John Masabo

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 The Problem of Corruption: An overview

Despite the remarkable technological development in our world today and its contribution in terms of improving people's lives and their well-being, there have been less contribution of the same in fighting corruption. The situation has been always a paradox; that is; as technology advances corruption practices increases and even at some times technology aids the practice and the fraudulent culture. The fact is that; there have been no technological innovations so far made to help human beings to alleviate the ills of corruption. Instead corruption gets institutionalised day by day and it deprives the life of the majority and put it to periphery. Those in public service offices consider the majority as means to their prosperity through corrupt practices. Thus it is bizarre and unconvincing to see some of our own sons and daughters ignoring the well-being of others.

The corruption phenomenon in Tanzania can be viewed in an incremental manner. For example:

The decade following Tanzania's independence (1960-1970) did not manifest intensive corruption. ... [But] as the country expanded the

public sector and public administration institutions progressively decayed, entailing the rise of bureaucratic malfunctioning, opportunities for rent-seeking behaviour and asking and offering bribes started creeping in. ...Public officials became driven by a culture of survival and they progressively adopted deviant behaviour patterns ... including the use of corruption as income maintenance strategy.¹

Today's Tanzania is not and cannot be immune not only to petty corruption but also to grand and looting forms of corruption. It is under intensive corruption! Corruption is being institutionalised and it "has been accepted as a vice that one can benefit from"² + and it has become "as the cancer in the society". Corruption as a phenomenon has eaten deep into almost if not all strata of African society and it has been and is accepted as part of our culture and "the moral principle in operation here is one of *utilitarianism*: as long as my choice of action brings some good to me, it is okay."³ If not stopped, corruption is always the main cause of the moral and social break-down of our society.⁴ It is even internationally acknowledged that, systematic corruption is prevalent and entrenched in most of sub-Saharan countries of which Tanzania is one of them.

This paper sets forth to argue that, despite the fact that corruption culture has deeply entrenched in society; it remains a vice that most people are not happy with. In so doing the paper will discuss among other things the various attempts that Tanzania community; both, the government, religions and individual have adopted to express their discontent with corruption and their desire to end it to create a free-corrupt society. It is true to most of us that a free-corrupt society is the best.

¹ Mutahaba, 2005, p. 15.

² Opongo and Orobator, 2007, p. 61.

³ Ignatius, 2010.

⁴ Norlen, 2003, p. 334.

To meet this standard, the paper will be divided into four parts. The first is an introduction which addresses the overview of the problem of corruption, definitions, forms, causes and effects of corruption. The second part discusses the evolution of corruption and fraudulent culture in connection to various steps taken to refurbish the economies focusing on Tanzania. The third part will address the various attempts taken to fight corruption as one way of disqualifying the prevalence of corruption culture in our society. The fourth part which is the last and concluding part that also postulates the way the country should take in the realisation of the desire to create a corruption free society.

6.2 Corruption

6.2.1 What is Corruption?

Like any other technical term, the word corruption is not an easy word to define. It is often used to mean bribe though the two do not mean the same though related. Corruption as an “anti-social behaviour conferring improper benefits contrary to legal and moral norms”⁵ is not a new phenomenon at all but is topical into the international, national and local debates. The fact is that, a clear, precise and universally accepted definition is hard to arrive at. For example, the *Oxford Advanced Learner’s Dictionary of Current English* of 1994, defines the term corruption by associating it with the verb corrupt which is defined as being “immoral” and being ‘dishonest’ especially through accepting bribes; thus corruption connotes or means an act of corrupting or being corrupted.

Hellsten and Lwaitama (2004) on the other hand defined corruption as “using one’s position or office (or public resources in general) for ones private gains.” Similarly for Norlén, (2003) understands corruption to mean is a term covering a “wide range of acts committed against

⁵ Quoted by Tarimo 2005, p. 95; 2004, p. 181.

official legislation which basically aims to get privileges either for myself or for my group” or it “can also consist of giving oneself privileges which are connected with one position, like facilities of his/her institution or group for their own benefit.”

Broadly speaking, corruption can be defined as actions undertaken for mercenary gain with no regard to honour, right or justice. Such actions involve the use of abuse or selfish exercise of the power and influence attached to the public office.

6.2.2 Forms of Corruption

Corruption manifests itself into many forms or types, but “the most common form of corruption is bribery of different kinds aiming at giving ...certain privileges in obtaining something...whether it is money, career, protection from the authorities, or other things important to...a citizen.”⁶ Different scholars and activists have identified different types. But in all, these two forms seem to be the most commonly known types or types of corruption. For example, *The Report of the Warioba Commission on Corruption* identifies are two categories of corruption. Tarimo explains them as follows:

The first category includes those who give and receive bribes because of their low income and standard of living. What they receive and give only helps them to survive. The second category includes those who give and receive at high levels of administration. This category concerns particularly leaders and civil servants whose involvement in corrupt practices arises from greed for wealth and power.⁷

Lwaitama and Hellsten (2004) classify these two categories as “petty corruption and grand corruption” as well as going little further to presenting another way of classifying corruption which focuses on the manner in which corrupt transaction is done. They thus point out two types, namely; active or coercive and passive or submissive corruption.

⁶ Norlen, 2003, p. 333.

⁷ Tarimo, 2005, pp. 95-96.

This is how they construe these:

By *active* or '*coercive*' corruption we mean a situation of extortion in which an agent (public servant, employee, official) is the initiator who gets the direct personal gain from the transaction.... By *passive* or '*submissive*' corruption we refer to a situation in which the client is the initiator who offers a bribe and the office holder agrees to go along it (which is initiated by recipient of service) and deliver such services that clearly are not part of his or her duty.⁸

Cooksey (2010) presents three forms of corruptions but seems different from the first description. He mentioned of the petty corruption, grand corruption and political corruption. The first two are also identified in *The Report of the Warioba Commission on Corruption* as well understood in the same manner, but the third one is what is different.⁹ He explains political corruption "as a kind of manipulating public resources for maintaining public order and keeping rulers in power."

But as regard to the types, if the phenomenon is critically assessed there are three main categories of corruption which are very common and obvious to our understanding of the phenomenon in Tanzania; namely petty corruption, grand corruption and looting. Petty corruption is the most common and prevalent form of corruption to the extent that most people in Tanzania literally considers it as a part of life. It involves payment of small amounts of money or other gifts to either speed up state function that are already a taxpayer's right or to avoid legal sanctions for minor infractions of the law. Grand corruption is well understood with the help of examples. Paying a government minister a hefty kickback to facilitate favourable review of tender application is one of the examples of grand corruption. Another is payment of similar large sums to senior customs officials to be allowed to import goods

⁸ Lwaitama and Hellsten, 2004.

⁹ Cooksey, 2010, 183-184.

without paying tax or custom duty. This level of corruption is quite prevalent. The most hot debates over the issue of national identities in which the Minister of Home Affairs was implicated and said to have been favouring one of the company to win the tender is a current example of this if the investigation will be completed and reveal this and the ongoing DOWANS saga are shining examples.

Looting occurs when the state pays huge sums of money for goods or services that are not delivered. The large number of parastatals that have been totally run into the ground by managers robbing their coffers is also a type of looting. Richmond and Buzwagi scandals fit better in this category. The result is that the enormous sums of money involved have serious macro-economic implications because paying for goods not delivered or services not rendered produces inflation. This kind of corruption can and only takes place with the approval, complicity or knowledge of the head of the states/countries where there is a disproportionate concentration of power in the highest political office.

Commenting on how the African leaders perpetuate the looting of the continent, Wangari Maathai states: "to-day's African leaders are comparable to the African slave barons who facilitated the capturing and the selling-off of millions of their fellow blacks to distant lands where they were subjected into slavery, only today they are subdued within their own borders."¹⁰ Such corruption, which is symptomatic of wide-scale political failure, is essentially cannibalistic because it undermines and eventually consumes the very state that enables it. Looting corruption appears to be unique to sub-Saharan Africa and the most destructive kind of corruption prevalent in Africa.

6.2.3 Causes for Corruption

The list of the causes is too long. But in general "the dynamic force of corruption comes from leaders and civil servants on one hand and

¹⁰ Quoted by Umeodum, 2008, p. 89.

ordinary citizens who are in need of social services on the other.”¹¹ In all cases, acting unprofessionally and unethically serves as major foundation or basis at which other reasons or causes are explained from. Moreover, state organs [such as police, judiciary and Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB), mentioning just a few] expected to curb corruption has also fallen victims to this practice and thereby worsening the situation (ibid.). The situation of the problem is too intricate interwoven with the poor governance generally and the over-concentration of power in the presidency that is the state is a major actor. Today because of corruption the rule of law does not mean much in Tanzania. To why the country have fallen victim of corruption need a systematic and critical analysis of the causes. The loopholes inherent in the bureaucratic procedures, greed, inadequate incomes and the erosion of moral standards mainly accentuate corruption (ibid.). Mean while let us examine some of these causes.

Tanzania public service is organised in a pyramidal or hierarchical structure. For one to be served has to follow the steps in the hierarchy beginning from the lowest to the top. It is thus true that no one can receive service if he/she has not followed or abided by these bureaucratic procedures in a given public office. This has fostered slow pace of receiving service as is time consuming. This has been a major factor to those who want quick services to buy for their services with the desire to save time. For those in office have used it to ask for illegal pay to offer quick services which could overlap the laid procedures. It has led to the creation of corrupt culture—willingness to give something to ease and speed up procuring of quality services in the public sector. Those who occupy the bureaucratic positions, “although they receive salaries, they also enjoy access to various forms of illicit gains through the practice of corruption.” Receiving bribes in public service have

¹¹ Tarimo, 2005, p. 95.

become the part of the culture. Most of people join the civil service uncorrupted but end up becoming corrupt. Thus,

“Both those who give and those who receive money are caught up in the web of corruption. The chain is a continuous one: you don’t give, you don’t receive services, you don’t ask for money then you should not walk with us because you are a betrayer. In a case if you report to the police they will ask for some money to make the arrest and the arrested person will also pay the police to be released, and if this does not happen then he or she will be taken to court and the judge could be corrupted to rule in favour of the accused, or the civil servants in court chambers could mysteriously misplace the accused person’s file”.¹²

In most cases grand corruption and looting is what is normally referred to as political corruption for it involves mostly those in political position/class and those with the power to make policies as well as to enter into contracts with different partners on behalf of the citizens. Tarimo puts forward two reasons for the political corruption that are worth of quoting at length:

The first factor involves administrative circles whereby the ruling class and predatory elite promote personal interest by using the state’s authority and sovereignty. In addition to bribes, the expanded role of state activity provides additional opportunities for embezzlement and unlawful enrichment...misappropriation of state authority, lack of accountability, and lack of exemplary leadership from the public officials. ‘Looting of the national treasury, bribery and thievery are a way of life from the highest government official to the lowest civil servant’...the second factor is the decline of motivation to create wealth and concern of common good. Because of the dependency mentality, the attention of the African administrators’ remains focused on the foreign aid instead of increasing the production. This makes it impossible to increase salaries for civil servants and...some political leaders and civil

¹² Opongo and Orobator, 2007, p. 67.

servants end up entrenching themselves into practices fraudulence and corruption.¹³

The grand corruption limits provision of better public services. It has made corruption pervasive and popular. The economy is declining and for the people us in Tanzania can say that grand corruption has increased living expenses and even the public service have dwindled. We remember the case of Richmond which has swallowed nation's billions of money. In regard to the looting form of corruption Umeodum cautions us not to forget the part played by foreign governments. He subscribes as follows:

It is important not to overlook the role of foreign governments and multinational companies and agencies in the corruption and theft in Africa [Tanzania]. While the African [Tanzanian] officials are fully responsible for siphoning the public wealth and resources and passing them to rich countries, some foreign governments are guilty of their direct or indirect collaboration and involvement despite their ceremonious condemnation of the corruption in Africa...Looting of public funds could be reduced if people would have difficulty finding welcoming ground for depositing such ill-gotten wealth.¹⁴

The theft at the Bank of Tanzania (BoT) through External Payment Arrears (EPA) account, the buying of the fake military radar and the signing contract with Richmond Company for the emergence power supply fall in this category and were to a large extent externally facilitated. The nation for about two years have been paying capacity charges for non-power generating company just to meet the terms of the

¹³ Tarimo, 2005, p. 96.

¹⁵ Umeodum, 2008, pp. 90-91.

contract. The impact was the rising of electricity bills which has led to the price of commodities to sky rocket.

Inadequate income of many civil servants resulting from low wages or salaries accounts to be a number one of most of the petty corruption. The civil servants seem to be poorly paid and thus have to find alternative means of making end meet as “the monthly salary for ordinary people—if they are lucky enough to have a job—is not sufficient to supply the most essential need of a family.”¹⁵ Thus those in the offices have changed their office to be the means for acquiring something extra from their client to supplement their budgetary constraints to meet basic needs. To a large extent this had created a corruption culture where one “would not do his or her duty without getting an extra pay...ask for ‘a gift’ that is actually a bribe.”¹⁶ It thus sounds reasonable to conclude that “corruption and poverty walk hand in hand.”¹⁷ Though this assertion deserves a credit, we should always be reminded that: “Corruption undermines governance, but does not necessarily prevent growth or poverty reduction.”¹⁸

6.2.4 Effects of Corruption

Corruption has negative effects on peoples’ life. The most common effects are; drop in quality and delay of public service, hindering the promotion of human rights, loss of civil servants integrity, moral erosion, retrenchment of workers/employees and making country poor. The fact is that; “corruption is eating away the resources and destroying the public trust.”¹⁹ In the past three years deaths have been reported as resulting from corruption implicated incidence. Here the case of Mwananyamala Hospital is a shining example where a patient succumbed death as the result of being delayed service because had yet

¹⁵ Norlén, 2003, p. 334.

¹⁶ Hellsten and Lwaitama, 2004, p. 48.

¹⁷ Henry, 2007, p. 2.

¹⁸ Cooksey, 2010, p. 180.

¹⁹ Hellsten and Lwaitama, 2004, p. 49.

and could not pay some money to procure service that was needed to rescue life though was entitled to such service for free as a tax payer.

Moreover some people who have been strong in fighting against corruption and commonly accepted corrupt practices may risk their job, their social 'respect', their promotion even their life. In some cases sex corruption is a common element. It is not surprising therefore to hear that people are asked for sex in order to be considered a job interview.

6.3 Evolution and Institutionalisation of Corruption and Fraudulent Culture in Africa: Tanzanian Experience

6.3.1 Tanzania's Economic Reform and the Increasing of Corruption Practices

Many people are questioning the prospects of the initiatives that Tanzanian society is taking towards making their place in the global politics. A lot can be said of the years following our political independence. But in the recent past we have had a state of fluid political progress and it is even difficult to say what ideology Tanzanians follow today. Some say they are capitalists while others object by saying that they are socialists. It therefore requires a deep and critical mind to clearly say which side they are in. As opposed to our days today, after "independence in 1961, Tanzania was one of those African states trying to introduce a locally-grounded philosophy- '*Ujamaa philosophy and Education for Self-reliance*', before being caught up in the whirlwind of change that characterized the late 1980s and early 1990s.²⁰ But it was evident that "by the mid-1980s, the Tanzanian experiment was experiencing severe economic stress, manifesting in both inflation that was breaching to 30% and the shortage of hard currency and basic commodities" (ibid.). This experience

²⁰ Rupiya, Lwehabura and le Roux, 2006.

marked the call to reconsider the move from socialist (state) planned economy to capitalist (market) planned economy. It is from the mid-1980s Tanzania was on the move to capitalism (market driven policies) a form which is different from that the country attempted to follow as soon Tanganyika became independent which characterized the first five year plan up to 1967.

As some suggest that they are capitalists, they are probably trying to interpret what is really happening on the ground. It is only last two years or so when Tanzania was a leading country in the dirty business of killing albinos. Probably this is the ring tone that our society have changed and our value system have diffused to adopt the liberal thinking of only striving for independent freedom under the rule of the jungle. Even if we are really under capitalism ideology; it calls us to reconsider how our society has reached that state. It is therefore wise to ask several questions some of which are:- What then is capitalism and what is the form of the capitalism that Tanzania is transiting to? The Marxist orthodoxies maintain that, capitalism is understood as the socio-economic and political system in which the major means of wealth acquisition is capital and as a social economic and political system in which exploitation of some people by other people is prevalent. But some social analysts and social scientists are arguing that "globalisation of market economies is the most popular and most recent form of capitalism."²¹ This is the form of capitalism that Tanzania currently fits in. As we have mentioned earlier that the move to capitalism has a unique and an interesting history. It began in the early 1960s, interrupted in 1967 and manifested its actual processes as from mid 1980s to the early 1990 following the relinquishing from power by the first president Mwalimu Julius K. Nyerere in 1985 and subsequently stepping down from the party chairmanship in 1990. In principle, it is the second phase government President Ali Hassan Mwinyi who made major reforms that

²¹ Kanyandago, ed., 2002, p. 123.

characterise the 'Transition to Capitalism in Tanzania as from mid 1980s. Explaining what actually happened that marked the beginning of the transition to capitalism Chachage, notes:

After his ascendancy to presidency [Ali Hassan Mwinyi] first signed the IMF agreement, an act that significantly changed the Tanzania-foreign donor relationship... [and when he took over] the chairmanship, CCM launched what became popularly known as Zanzibar Declaration as the part of liberalisation measure...²²

In that regard, if any one sets forth to study the Tanzanian Transition process to Capitalism might conclude as some scholars have done that; following the "economic reforms introduced in 1986 by the government that came to power with 1985 elections"... the collapse of central planning mode in Eastern Europe, the change of leadership in Tanzania, and the donor pressure²³... form the landmarks or the foundation for the move. Thus as from the mid 1980s, Tanzania began its journey to capitalism within the economic and political liberalisation wagon. Despite the existence of organised crime and corruption in Tanzania from time in memorial; the state run economy that was instituted by the Arusha Declaration in 1967 led to "the growth of a centralised bureaucracy, spreading of corruption, economic decline and inefficiency."²⁴ Thus it served as the foundation or as "a good recipe for corruption and economic problem. In this transition period, "corruption facilitates the diversion of public resources into private hands."²⁵ Simply what many people have assumed and hoped to benefit from liberalism has been turned to the opposite. Explaining this paradox of economic liberalisation, Mutahaba argues:

It was assumed that increasing space for non-state actors in economic activities would reduce the scope for exercising rent seeking

²² Chachage, 2000, pp. 86-87.

²³ Chaliga, et.al., 2002, p. 15.

²⁴ Legum and Mmari, eds., 1995, p. 193.

²⁵ Kikutwa, 2005.

behaviour on part of public officials and thereby [reducing] the incidence of corruption. ... [instead] it turned out that the economic liberalization took place in unplanned, haphazard manner, without regulatory regimes; this fuelled corruption to high levels and saw the beginning of grand corruption in the country, to the extent that for much of the early nineties period Tanzania was consistently listed as one of the most corrupt nations in Transparency International's annual rankings.²⁶

In that regard it can be concluded that, increased corruption and rent seeking behaviour in Tanzania have increased following the adoption of new economic reform. Corruption and fraudulent culture are thus core characteristics characterising the transition to capitalism process in Tanzania. Having surveyed this synoptic history of economic reform and its resulting effect of increasing of corruption and fraudulent practices; let me now address what is central to my presentation; the corruption problem.

6.4 Corruption Eradication Dynamics in Tanzania

6.4.1 General Views and Feelings toward Corruption

The reality is that corruption has entrenched its roots in Tanzania, people have made it part of their culture. Some do believe that it requirement to pay bribe to be served in the public office. This fact however does not imply that people approve it. In the following part I am going to present some cases from Tanzania showing the extent to which despite of the fact that people give and take corruption, they do not 100% support it.

²⁶ Mutahaba, 2005, p. 16.

It has been argued that corruption has become part and parcel of our peoples' life; that is corruption culture. These claims however require reassessment before giving it a credit. In principle, corruption is not a celebrated phenomenon, and as the result various groups have responded vigorously to pose brake to corruption and corrupt leaders. There have been both national wide, non government organisation and individuals' efforts to bring corruption to an end. All these dismiss the claims that suggest that corruption have become part of our culture, but rather recognising the reality of presence of corruption and working towards eradicating it.

6.4.2 Government Phases and Their Corruption Eradication Initiatives

To begin with, there have been initiatives in Tanzania since 1960s by the first phase government to curb the problem of corruption. For example in 1966 the Permanent Commission of Enquiry was put in place. A remarkable step "to address and control the trends of the increased corruption, the Nyerere Government enacted the leadership code as part of the Arusha Declaration which has been adopted in 1967..."²⁷ Other measures were setting-up Commission for Enforcement of the Leadership Code in 1973 and the Anti-Corruption Squad in 1975. Among all these measures taken by the first phase government the socialist code was the most pronounced one. ... though a socialist code of conduct was making its contribution to fighting against corruption tendencies, the country came to experience a major economic crisis...in the late 1970s and early 1980s...In the end, the harsh realities of scarcity and poverty overwhelmed the dedication to socialist equality and corruption became embedded in Tanzania society. This was left to the second phase government. As Nyerere left the leadership of the country and Ali Hassan Mwinyi took over in 1985, Government recognised the futility of remaining in confrontation with the Bretton Woods

²⁷ Mutahaba, 2005, p. 15.

institutions, and as part the conflict it adopted economic liberalisation policies (p. 16). Partly this was a means to solve the economic crisis and partly as a way to curb corruption by allowing non-state actors in the economy.

Remarkable and most pronounced measure to eradicate corruption are said to have been taken by the third phase government under president Mkapa. One reason that attributes that claim is that: "Fighting corruption was a major campaign message carried by the presidential candidates as well as those campaigning for parliamentary seats"²⁸ of 1995 general election campaigns. The move began with "the general election campaign in 1995 the war against corruption was the catchword and ...the transparent and truthful government [as] the third phase Government's persistent determination to fight the war against bribery and corruption."²⁹ CCM and its presidential candidate, Mkapa specifically made a declaration that was intending to making a further step to combat "corruption inherited by the Third Phase Government, which included high and rising levels of rampant petty corruption, which was beginning to eat into the fabric of the Tanzania society, burgeoning grand corruption scourge, the President immediately followed up his election by setting up, early 1996, a Commission led by Judge Sindi Warioba, "... to inquire on the state of corruption in the country and make recommendation on the way forward and year end , the commission produced its report." This constitutes what is commonly referred as "an in-depth diagnostic study of the causes and extent of corruption in the country through the Presidential Commission Against Corruption (PCAC) commonly known as Warioba Commission."³⁰ To implement what the commission recommended, the "Government adopted a policy of zero tolerance on corruption from that point onwards. In that regard it took two categories of responses, namely, the

²⁸ Ng'wanza, 1998, p. 73.

²⁹ Mutahaba, 2005, p. 15.

³⁰ Hoseah, 2001, p. 2.

immediate action and the institutional changes and policy strategy” manifesting in the National Anti-Corruption Strategy and Action Plans (NACSAP) which further set priority areas and mainstreamed reforms to fit into the NACSAP including “Parastatal Sector Reform Programmes (PSRP), Local Government Reform Programme (LGRP), Legal Sector Reform Programme (LSRP) and Public Finance Management reform Programme (PFMRP)”...³¹ to mention but only a few. All these were aiming at striving to make sure justice is dispensed these constitutes the early initiatives.

6.4.3 Institutional Framework for Fighting Corruption

This is the latter or the most recent measures in corruption eradication. Its manifest is particularly “legal and regulatory framework specifically formulated for the purpose of fighting corruption.”³² Among all the institutions “the key institutions for fighting corruption are the President’s Office, the Prevention of Corruption Bureau [now Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau] , Director of Public Prosecution, the Ethics Secretariat, the Ethics Inspectorate Unit within [Civil Service Department] CSD, the Human Rights and Good Governance Commission ... and Civil Society Organisation”(p. 19). But what is obvious is that, the war against corruption is under the Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB) the former Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCB). This is why in the recent past there have been national debates furthering the need to give-teeth to the former PCB to make it work more efficiently towards eradicating corruption in Tanzania. This has led to the change of duties and name: from PCB to PCCB—Prevention and Combusting of Corruption Bureau. This was a tremendous improvement towards fighting against corruption. This Bureau has been involved deeply in the last year’s scandals. This is a sign that corruption is not accepted. PCB

³¹ Ibid., pp. 8-9.

³² Mutahaba, 2005, p. 18.

did a lot in educating people about the evil of corruption and duty retained by PCCB today through their advertisements and posters they distribute countrywide.

6.4.4 Some Specific Institutions and Steps in Corruption Eradication

The war against corruption is not only left to be the prerogative of a fore mentioned institutions but the war is open to whole public of Tanzanians. The fact is that various agencies and institutions different from the previously mentioned one have been at the fore front in waging war against corruption. For example the parliament through its Standing Committees is actively engaged in the war against corruption. We can all recall the work done by a Special Parliamentary Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr Harrison Mwakyembe a Member of Parliament for Kyela which was assigned to investigate the Richmond scandal and give some recommendations. We are all the witnesses; it led to the resigning of the Prime Minister and two other ministers from office and the subsequent dissolution of the cabinet in 2008. It was a step to show the extent to which the national parliament disapproves the corruption acts.

The Bagamoyo Statement is another remarkable initiative by the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania (ELCT) Bishops in their fight against corruption. Quoting from this document Norlén writes:

...corruption has become a chronic problem at all levels of leadership in our country. Receiving and giving of bribes, theft through manipulation of accounts, the misappropriation of government property, are some of actions that have contributed to deterioration of the country's economy—thus making the citizen go without a number of services—which are their rights.³³

In that document resulting from their meeting they expressed their upset by the society's corrupt behaviour. Their tones called for an active action to eradicate and end corruption. They see corruption as

³³ Norlén, 2003, pp. 333–334.

“profoundly evil, because it ignores the basic laws and rules of society, because it gives privileges to strong and rich people at the expense of the poor and weak.” Apart from this religious group other religious leaders such as the Imams and Sheikhs have also been at the fore front to reminding people of how God disapproves corrupt behaviours and the extent to which is important for people to refrain from giving and receiving. Similarly the Tanzania Episcopal Conference (TEC) has been vocal against on corruption on various occasions it has issued rebukes against practices of receiving and giving bribes. These have been communicated through sermons and through the media particularly the TEC’s own newspaper *Kiongozi*.

The independent media is another avenue where anti-corruption agenda is widely debated. In the fight against corruption and in a special way the media has been always at the forefront to reveal some cases with some intricate corruption assumption. The media has been educating and informing the public about issues that have some elements of corruption. The debate over EPA, Richmond, Kagoda, Buzwagi and National Identities Printing information and the like has been covered by both print and electronic media ranging from newspapers, magazines, radios, television and internet. Through their investigative writing, they have been able to establish some truths about evil conduct of corruption. They sometimes presented some parts of the contracts that were entered by the government.

Political parties are another avenue where fighting against corruptions is done. For example, through its party program famously known as ‘*Operation Sangara*’ the Chama cha Demokrasia na Maendeleo (CHADEMA) took the lead in exposing corruption scandals. The operation was aiming at unearthing all forms of corrupt tendencies. When citizens are informed it becomes easy for them to stand and say no to asking, giving and receiving corruption in any form be it bribes or *takrima*. Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM) on its part has accepted to

abolish the giving of some incentives to voters before election famously known as '*takrima*' equated with the so called Africa hospitality. In the recent past *takrima* have been judged as a form of an institutionalised form of corruption.

Other important institution in the corruption eradication that contributed tremendously to this move is the media. Here I commend the work of both public and private media. In special way I commend the contributions of the private media, both print (newspapers, magazines, journals, conference and symposium papers and books), electronic (internet) and audio and audio visual (radio and television). It was very active in publishing all news, articles and commentary on corruption. The media took a lead in publishing some extract of ill contracts that some government officials signed. They hosted extensive debates, interviews on the ills corruption in the community. Some went as far as publishing names of suspects of corrupt acts in the country including those with top posts.

Apart from the above, individuals though they take and give corruption, they have always shown the extent they frown on corruption. People have been flocking to PCCB offices to inform and ask for the PCCB money to furnish those who asked for bribes that may be trapped and be sent before the court of law, be prosecuted and if proved guilty be executed. Individual initiatives are very vital in our war against corruption. It can be only active if the people are going to be trained and be aware about their rights and their civic responsibilities.

6.5 Conclusion

“Though it is a global problem, corruption in ... [Tanzania] manifests itself in an ugly shape and strange manner,...there scarcely exist credible institutions of integrity and competence that can successfully combat the excesses of some disgruntled elements in the

society.”³⁴ It is thus necessary to fight and eradicate corruption and create a free-corrupt society. A strategy to combat corruption will thus have to be highly creative, and to the greatest possible extent work around the institutionalised corruption and institutions that spearhead the fight against corruption to relieve and simplify their work. To be successful, the strategy will have to tackle the fundamental causes of corruption rather than the symptoms. It is evident therefore that when we create a free-corrupt society we will be able to uphold and promote human rights, enhances equity and equality among the people as well as the improvement of the provision of public social services and respect of the clients.

In the fight to eradicate corruption, there should be an integral and well co-ordinated attempt/venture. In order to build a corruption-free society we all have to recognise our rights and duties in the society.³⁵ All stake holders have to be involved, from the bottom to the top; both citizen and leaders. The need for law review remains a priority if this war to end corruption is to be continued. This law review will enable organs appointed to lead others in the war against corruption. It should also be clear that this is a war in which all people in the society are soldiers; a war that calls for a united venture if we are to succeed. The government, the religious leaders and political leaders have shown us a path; with confidence and determined zeal let us join our hands together to combat corruption. Corruption being a core characteristic of Tanzania transition to capitalism it has to be addressed adequately and be eliminated otherwise the transition will only benefit a few but living the majority in problems.

³⁴ Umeodum, 2008, p. 89.

³⁵ Opongo and Orobator, 2007, p. 63.

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