



African Union Convention on the Prevention and Regulation of Corruption (AUCPCC) and the normalization of corruption in Africa.

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Abstract- It would seem like corruption has become a norm in most African states and institutions. The lack of consequence on corrupt people in Africa has increased the levels of corruption on the continent. The purpose of this study is to determine the factors that have led to the normalization of corruption in Africa and suggest possible solutions to end this penchant. The objective of this study was to investigate the extent to which corruption has become entrenched in Africa and why the various legal frameworks such as the African Union Convention on the Prevention and Regulation of Corruption (AUCPCC) have failed to stamp out corrupt practices in Africa in spite of it being ratified by 44 out of the 55 member states. The study applied secondary research methodology because of the availability of data that is related to the study. The study found that corruption has permeated all parts of society in Africa and has resulted in the retardation and collapse of the civil society, prevented the attainment of the SDG's, maladministration and lack of socio-economic developmental advancement on a continent that has suffered from all forms of exploitation of its resources and peoples.

Keywords: corruption, Africa, leadership, normalization, society, tendency, power

I. INTRODUCTION

Corruption is estimated to cost Africa approximately \$148 billion annually (Olaniyan, 2017), as well as negatively impacting on human development, economic growth, trade and poverty alleviation measures (Fagbadebo, 2019). If corruption is not controlled and contained the continent will not achieve the United Nations sustainable development goals (SDG's). Otegunrin et al. (2019) postulates that corruption is a major factor aggravating the level of poverty and hunger in many African countries as often resources that could potentially be utilized towards the amelioration of hunger and poverty are often misappropriated by corrupt officials. The African Union (AU) establishment of the AU Convention on the Prevention and Regulation of Corruption (AUCPCC) was a significant step towards addressing the pervasive problems of corruption on the continent. The AUCPCC was ratified by the Assembly of the AU in 2003, it was built as a common roadmap for the member states to adopt good governance and anti-corruption initiatives, the Convention seeks to eliminate corruption in its member states and in corporations operating on the continent. Although the AUCPCC has been ratified by 44 of the 55 member states (African Union, 2020), corruption continues to be pervasive on the continent. There are no records about the effectiveness of the AUCPCC on corruption in Africa Vyas-Doorgapersad (2007). This paper discusses the three areas where corruption is most prevalent in Africa as identified by Transparency International (TI).

Transparency International (2021b) defines corruption as "the abuse of entrusted power for private gain" in its recent report on corruption in Africa it examined three main areas where corruption is most prevalent. According to the report these are: money laundering, illegal enrichment, and political party fundraising. The report also assessed the role of civil society and the media in the battle against corruption (Transparency International, 2021a).

Money laundering is described as a horrific crimes that damages the lives of millions of Africans across the continent(Transparency International, 2021a).Under the AUCPCC, member states are expected to make money laundering illegal, however the convention has failed to provide them with a mechanism for how to prevent it, nor does it equip the authorities with the tools they need to investigate and prosecute money laundering.If African countries are to overcome the scourge of money laundering on the continent African governments need to commit more resources and attention to eradicating the crime through technical skills, such as financial analysts and tax inspectors, as well as strengthening coordination between these professionals and prosecutors. The police and the judiciary would also need to be equipped to deter the often well-connected money launderers from avoiding investigations and convictions(Transparency International, 2021a).

Illegal enrichment is described by TI as a situation where Government leaders steer public funds into their own pockets(Transparency International, 2021a). Under the AUCPCC illegal enrichment is a felony and is defined as “the significant increase in the assets of a public official or any other person which he or she cannot reasonably explain in relation to his or her income” (African Union, 2003). Article 8 of the Convention urges member states to classify illegal enrichment as an offence and to “adopt necessary measures to establish under their laws an offence of illicit enrichment”. However, the convention does not provide tools and mechanism on how to prevent or prosecute the offence.The lack of requisite resources, expertise and equipment, combined with the restricted autonomy of judicial institutions in some countries, are some of the main challenges in the battle against the effective prosecution of this crime across the continent(Transparency International, 2021a). As a result, most nation states have only been able to prosecute a few officials, whilst in some countries, no one has been prosecuted. African states need more stringent mechanisms to make it illegal and very difficult for elected authorities to benefit themselves through unethical activities(Abebe, 2020). The responsibility should rest on the accused to justify and show the legal origins of their properties, failure to do so should result in such ill acquired properties being seized and the official prosecuted. The police as well as the judiciary should be given absolute discretion to investigate and prosecute offenders of this crime(Agomor and Studies, 2019, Transparency International, 2021a).

Political party funding, which is the third area of corruption according to the TI report, although an acceptable practice in all multi-party democracies, has become one of the avenue’s for corruption in Africa (Transparency International, 2021a). Unregulated and opaque funding of political parties has made it possible for secret unscrupulous actors to fund and purchase politicians for their agendas. The AUCPCC sets a strong duty on state parties to legislate and efficiently implement disclosure provisions for political party financing(Hatchard, 2014). Article 10 further directs that member states should “proscribe the use of funds acquired through illegal and corrupt practices to finance political parties; and incorporate the principle of transparency into funding of political parties” (African Union, 2003). However, most nations do not specifically forbid the use of unlawfully obtained funds for political funding.Tunisia is one of the countries that significantly stood out in the past decade on control of political finance(Ohman, 2016). However, due to public protest on the annulment of some elections results due to infringement of the public finance rules the strict regulations were relaxed during the 2014 elections, which lead to reports from the Tunisian civil society organization I WATCH, and the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES), reporting that the two major parties exceeded the spending limit in a number of governorates (Ohman, 2016).

African governments should take steps to prevent unscrupulous persons from supporting their political parties. Parties should make their financial results publicly accessible both before and after major elections (Arewa, 2019).

TI’s report recognized the role civil society and the media play in exposing and bringing attention to violations and unethical practices by those in authority. The influence of civil society and the media came to fore in South Africa, when in 2017, the media uncovered wrongdoing relating to state capture by the Gupta family, which led to the setting up of the Zondo Commission of Inquiry of which the former President Jacob Zuma is facing corruption trials (Cotterill, 2018). This prompted Naidoo (2019) to ask “where was parliament while the state was being captured”. Article 9 of the AUCPCC enjoins the member states to adopt such legislative and other measures to give effect to the right of access to any information that is requested to assist in the fight against corruption and related offences”. Article 12, encourages civil society and the media

to be fully engaged in the fight against corruption and to hold governments to the highest levels of transparency and accountability in the management of public affairs. The convention also states that all member states review their legislative structure on freedom of speech, association, and information to ensure that their media and civil society are free from intimidation. Where reports of abuse, violence, or illegal arrests of journalists and activists are made, they should be thoroughly investigated (Mugadza, 2018).

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, there has been an increase in fraud and corruption in businesses in Africa. According to a study conducted by SNG Grant Thornton (2021) fraud and corruption increased in the business sector in 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic. According to the report 61% of businesses in Sub-Saharan Africa experienced fraud and corruption during the year, 42% of the fraud was detected through whistleblowers and tips. Distracted employees were the major causes of the fraud on business as the pandemic made it difficult for the usual checks on goods and services to be inspected. Sadly, however only 37% of businesses prosecuted the fraud and corruption, whilst 11% took no action against the perpetrators of the crimes. For corruption to cease in Africa there must be consequences for corrupt behaviours both in government as well as in the business sector. The second segment of the paper discusses the theoretical framework of corruption in Africa, with a view to determining the root causes of corruption on the continent.

II. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Corruption impedes economic, political, and social growth in African countries. It is a significant challenge to sustainable prosperity, good government, and constitutional liberties, such as a free expression or public transparency. Moreover, corruption impacts people, households, and societies' well-being. The 10th Global Corruption Barometer (GCB) Africa version indicates that while the majority of African people believe that there is growing inequality in their countries, others feel that as citizens, they should still make a difference in the fight against corruption. GCB is the largest, most comprehensive poll of public opinion on corruption and their direct bribery encounters in Africa, undertaken in collaboration with Afrobarometer and Omega Polling. The poll contains the thoughts of over 47,000 people in 35 countries in Africa. It affects the poorest harder than the wealthy sometimes stopping them from getting access to essential health services, schooling, and legal safeguards, with catastrophic results. Young adults between 18 and 34 years of age pay bribes more frequently than elderly people over 55 (Pring and Vrushi, 2019).

This article evaluates the theoretical foundations for corruption in seven significant case studies and offers an overview of this issue in the political-economy field using examples from sub-Saharan Africa. These cases investigate the existing circumstances allowing government corruption, explaining how and who is involved. The article reveals the political will to end graft, which has failed conventional anti-corruption efforts, as a core area of political corruption. This will be of concern to those working on anti-corruption, including aid organizations, national NGOs, and government agencies, as a pertinent and forward-looking contribution in this area. It would also be useful for researchers in development, economic development, and political theory.

Corruption on the Continent of Africa is widespread and has become part of everyday life for a lot of Africans. As long as corruption is allowed to persist unimpeded, there are challenges to democracy not only in Africa but around the globe. The key problems faced by Africa include the need to create and maintain sustainable socio-economic effects that can contribute to systemic change. Three critical criteria are essential to achieve institutional change in Africa: first of all, good governance is crucial; second, Africa's leaders should be adopting decision-making processes; and, thirdly, Africa needs effective management and strong management institutions. Corruption is a social threat that is global, but in some jurisdictions, it is more pronounced than in other jurisdictions. For example, in all African countries, it is more widespread than in any other region of the world, as seen in the media. Corruption by its practitioners threatens and bends policies that inevitably impact private-sector development, resulting in untold difficulties and damage to the common people (Khan and Pillay, 2019). The misallocation of funds contributes to the misallocation of capital. The World Financial Organization (World Bank) sees corruption as a foreign or domestic problem, and the individual mindset of public officials to collect assets contributes to an abuse of public resources to favour individuals and/or private institutions, and self-enrichment. Corruption is thus pervasive where individuals in public and private positions monopolize the use of public resources for their benefit, with little to no accountability to taxpayers, in performing their constitutional duties, leading to abuse of private

benefits. While corruption is cutting through all stages of the human effort on a worldwide scale, the effect is felt by poorer and less-developed nations, particularly in Africa in which corruption takes away the commonwealth and contributes to private loss of public money. Corruption usually impedes lasting economic prosperity, stability, and good governance. Ban-Ki Moon, the former UN Secretary-General, explained this briefly (Dunlop and Radaelli, 2019).

III. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This study applied secondary research methodology, this was informed by the availability of data related to the study. Newspaper reports, conference reports, government gazettes, journal articles were used to reach conclusions for this study. Secondly, the study of existing data obtained from others means the interpretation of existing data. The secondary review helps scholars to explore study problems utilizing broad data collections, often with under-represented populations, while saving time and money. Using available information not only saves time and money but can also add depth to a study (Noor, 2008).

IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Corruption in Africa has reached a cancerous proportion that affects everyone, rich or poor. Corruption in Africa has become normal and people are no longer surprised if they hear about any corruption scandal. Corruption is destroying the democracy and the economy of Africa which forces Africans to leave Africa and look for better opportunities elsewhere. Africans who have critical skills and expertise in various fields of work decide to leave Africa to look for a better life outside of Africa. Corruption is not only destroying the economy but also destroys the future of the continent (Union, 2019). African community is failing to hold leaders accountable and they have learned to live with corruption. The corruption crisis in Africa is a reflection of African leadership and misgovernment's more general and now notorious atmosphere in the continent. The corruption pandemic in Africa has become a global phenomenon and its highly negative impacts on socio-economic growth and poverty reduction in the region. A range of international organizations currently centers their efforts on root causes, implications, and steps to control this cancer in society. In the dark, there is inequality that blooms, inhibits socio-economic development and wealth, and establishes the base for social and political turmoil (Barkley and Maduka, 2018). The United Nations General Assembly, on 16 December 1996, indeed, released a resolution to encourage social responsibility and ethics. The UN Resolution against Corruption and Bribery in International Business Transactions stressed the need to promote the social responsibility of private and public firms, including transnational companies and individuals, and acceptable ethical principles.

Africans themselves are now actively pursuing this issue of corruption in Africa, and are now talking frankly about how they live their life in dishonest attitudes, beliefs, and standards perpetrated by crooked leaders and bureaucrats. Indeed, this worry is a positive thing, for once Africans themselves begin to respond aggressively against the thrill of corruption they face, the corruption will continue to become a social norm that poisons civil society and break it into renting elites and powerless spectators. This paper explores Africa's corruption issue with a special focus on its roots, implications for growth and attempts to regulate it, drawing from an illustration from a broad spectrum of countries (Budhram and Geldenhuys, 2018). But it will be helpful for the remainder of the discussions before continuing to establish a working description of corruption. Following independence, most African countries shamelessly wandered away from a bureaucratic government that emphasized good governance and emphasized political sovereignty. In those nations that started to take collective economic decision-making and patrimonialism a politically-fledged bureaucracy arose. The new states not only had authoritarian autocracies but were now lacking in obligations, accountability, and rule of law in political and economic monopolies. In most African countries, therefore, post-independence administrative bureaucracy helped to establish bureaucratic chaos, political statehood, and heritage economy. The Commonwealth Secretariat in 2011 formed the Association of Anti-Bribery Agencies in Commonwealth Africa to build on longstanding dedication and assistance to the Member States, and the Commonwealth Africa Anti-Corruption Center was set up in Botswana in 2013. These innovations have achieved positive effects, and are considered less polluted than non-commonwealth countries. The

persistently high levels of the Commonwealth in the Mo Ibrahim Index of African Governance confirm this recognition(Carr, 2021).

The Secretary-General announced that the Commonwealth Secretariat will continue helping the Member States with the tremendous global expense of \$2.7 trillion and that it is confident that the Commonwealth Africa is turning its head toward corruption with the further success of the Maki. African leaders will need immediate and decisive action for applying the lessons they have learned, fighting impunity, and enhancing integrity and responsibility. The threats to good governance, sustainable economic growth, security, prosperity, and sustainability in Africa remain one of corruption's most significant. Strategically and comprehensively tackling corruption is of prime importance and an immediate challenge for the growth of the continent. Africa has enormous socio-economic and political costs of corruption. Due to bribery, inequality, and shameful trade, the control risk community reported that developed countries have lost almost 1 trillion US dollars in 2011. Africa costs \$148 billion in corruption annually, which is equivalent to 50% of tax revenues and 25% of Africa's GDP. Moreover, illicit financial flows, particularly through corporations and mainly through corrupt practices, continue to take away the financial resources that countries need. Several African governments have set up national anti-corruption institutions to fight corruption. However, there has been no end to the spread of corruption. The World Bank reported that corruption is prevalent throughout Africa and affects the poor disproportionately, with long-term development consequences(Schlenker, 2017).

There has been major progress in reducing corruption in several nations such as Rwanda and Tanzania. However, there have been poor advances, for example in Nigeria, Kenya, South Africa, and Sudan. All African countries have anti-corruption agencies. However, their committees in countries where progress was slow often do not work because of political interference, a lack of independence, and a general lack of political determination. Countries like Rwanda succeeded because they concentrate on ideologies, systems and organizations centered on the people and home-grown. This creates a culture of appreciation for integrity and rejection of corruption. Kenya, on the other hand, remains the leader of the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission in fighting corruption and still has to move forward in establishing the culture against corruption. In the late 90s, western players became much more active in combating corruption in Africa. In 1996 Michal Camdessus announced the use of donor leverage to eliminate corruption, former president of the World Bank, James Wolfensohn, and Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF). This gave a west rather than a local identity many anti-corruption campaigns, which partly explains the lack of commissions(Bulovsky, 2018).

At the same time as demanding an increase in privacy for the State Tax Recovery Agency and the establishment of an anti-corruption authority, the International Monetary Fund(IMF) suspended USD 220 million for Kenya aid in 1997. At the point, Amos Wako, Kenya's Attorney General, allegedly said that the IMF team 'forced its office to draft the Corruption Reduction Bill within one year.' The proposal led to the establishment of the Kenyan Anti-Corruption Authority(Donovan, 2015). In 2000 the donor funds were renewed but suspended again, as efforts to combat corruption have not progressed. Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission(EACC) investigated reports of wrongdoing at numerous legislative commissions, including the Committee on Public Accounts and the Committee on Agriculture. EACC Chairman Mumo Matemu announced that about 15 people were probing the multi-million scam and other massive instances of suspected corruption. The president agreed with the recommendations of the MPs and pursued suspensions. Vice-President Irene Keino resigned just hours after the court had adjudicated her. President Matemu later retired to the postwar office and became the new counter-graft commissioner. Also earlier, Jane Onsongo, another employee, resigned by quoting in battle(Rudbeck et al., 2016). While the Attorney General and the Head of the Public Prosecution told the world that the EACC is powerful enough to contend with the pending litigation, the much-weakened commission makes many people questioning that it is willing to fulfill it. Indeed, the institutions themselves that are meant to eradicate corruption also view themselves as corrupt. The Kenyan Parliament and its commissions, and the judiciary, have been charged with corruption. The executive has its share of corruption as well, with a list of 175 officials embroiled in bribes being appointed 12 out of 47 county governors. Africa's problems cannot be overlooked in the fight against corruption. Constructive dialogue, to set up anti-corruption committees that are genuinely in the interest of local society, between the public and governments must take place. This needs a participatory appraisal of commissions

and an inclusive decision-making mechanism in the future. This is important if Africa is to establish and promote its innovations, systems, and corruption structures(Dreher et al., 2019).

In the war against corruption in 2004, the Global Compact adopted its 10th concept. There appears to be a misconception in the various media reports regarding corruption and in some government anti-corruption efforts that corruption affects the public sector in particular. There's always a game of blame, the public sector is accused by the private sector. The public sector argues that the initiator is the private sector. The reality is that supply and demand are there and that they are both complicit. Yet the more political interference in business operations in general, the greater the extent to which power manipulation and corruption are exploited(Lohaus, 2019).In principle, where the laws of the game are well defined, strictly applied, when there is a disparity between competition from the private sector on the one side and rulemaking and government authorities on the other, corruption is less possible. Corruption is a structural phenomenon that impacts the entire society, the public and private companies are included. This covers education, the fundamental economic structure, the system of laws, the administration of the economy, and the ethical principles that exist in general.Any corruption critics claim that so much political interference is at stake in developed countries is one-sided,others say that the attendance is not right. In Africa, the state is usually very poor and the legislation has no influence. The right balance between regulatory efficiency on the one side and entrepreneurial-led companies in the private sector on the other is always optimal. Different economies have come and are characterized in different ways by different historical trajectories. But one may assume the less collision occurs, the simpler the rules of the game, and the more the law works(Kurakin and Sukharenko, 2018).

Corruption has been the topic of criminal legislation in several countries since the UN Convention against Corruption was introduced in 2003, however,effective execution is a challenge. This is true not only of corruption but of many issues of the public domain, including environmental, health, and safety issues, and so on. The effectiveness of public institutions in enforcing what high-level governments have ratified depends partly on institutional capability. However, it is also a priority-setting function that is regarded as essential.Unlike 10 years ago, what is different now is that the organization still needs consistent signs from the rules of the game. Ten years ago businesses were following a strictly liberal policy and claiming that all kinds of legislation are evil,this isn't the case today. People claim that they need strategies to reward strong, successful policies and practices(Rahman, 2018). They further say that not much can work because corruption policy doesn't work well.Both business leaders, irrespective of their country in question as regards their priority, said that it was reducing corruption and developing an atmosphere for securing an import, export permit, etc. corporate leaders said they would pay too many institutional actors that they have to pay for these purchases. Corruption is therefore seen by African corporate leaders as the number one priority. They cannot say this openly, as they depend on the hand which feeds them. However, they demonstrate very plainly that corruption is significant when they talk as the common voice.

In countries where there is systemic corruption and many other firms offer bribery or kick-backs to get contracts, it is not easy to force a corporation to avoid paying bribes. If you say no to extortion, extortion, and theft, you would be a detriment to your competitors. Therefore, countries must operate at a diplomatic level to change the situation, the solution is twofold. In places like Germany, until a few years ago bribery was effectively tax-deductible(Rahman et al., 2019). It was not until recently that Germany and the otherOrganization for Economic Co-operation and Development(OECD) countries had been concerned about corruption, what is considered joint action is the only path forward. Corporations mobilize a variety of neighboring businesses who believe that, if corruption were less prevalent, they will be better off. Nobody could choose to take the first step. Although if businesses can simultaneously inspire each other and probably with counterparts in public policy, they can make a difference. This has been achieved and succeeded by few nations, including Malawi.OECD international businesses, through clients, policymakers, and the public, are also investigated very closely back home. Very minor violations can then lead to such a scene. African firms face major problems, including how regulatory conditions can be strengthened, how to cope with electricity, transport, and so forth. The emphasis can vary, but solutions may also be very similar. Local corporations are also the largest of separate networks of particular countries. However, they still prefer a combination of the international and the local, since much of the learning takes place together.African policymakers are also keen to draw direct foreign investments (FDI). Not long ago, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) colleagues formed an argument that countries run the risk of underbidding themselves while

attempting to attract FDI, thereby ending up losing their sense of negotiating. However, given that a lot of people need to build jobs and raise their quality of life, the urge to attract FDI can be appreciated. This raises the future supply of investors in general with the Asian countries, in particular China, now main players (Munir and Ameer, 2020). For African countries, that's nice because they have more options. How fast this learning takes place and how ready large businesses in these countries are to accept the compact and its theory is very marvelous. For example, a Sudanese network with strong involvement of Indian and Chinese enterprises. No organization will do better other than that. There were huge investments and things sometimes go bad when that happens. However, it is welcome to infuse capital because much of it goes into housing, transport, etc., which otherwise would not happen. The position of foreign banks to help corrupt leaders invest their money in secret offshore accounts is frequently noted in reports of large-scale corruption in Africa. The latest global financial crisis has drawn attention to many financial firms' less transparent activities. Most were called to wake up to the financial crisis. The message has been taken that building long-term wealth and optimizing short-term benefits are not the same. It is very welcome to undergo intensified judicial oversight, including tax avoidance, misuse of authority, and corruption. It is increasingly important to have a safe financial system and is not a cause for the misuse of power (Musah et al., 2018).

In considering anti-corruption programs in Africa, it is also noted that institutions of civil society and the media played important roles. It is important to consider the notion of openness and the involvement of multiple actors. Transparency is the deeper sense of countering corruption. The more transparent and knowledge flows sponsored by communities, the better it is to carry up this anti-corruption agenda. In Malawi, since the former autocratic president of Malawi was ousted and multi-party democracy restored in 1994, separate civil society organizations and the media have been able to publicly talk about the need to fight the country's endemic corruption. Since then, both elected presidents have made corruption reduction an essential objective. President Binguwa Mutharika declared in late 2009 a raid on graft within a governing group, and some Party leaders and Cabinet ministers were initiated in the country's Anti-Corruption Bureau. Olajobi Makinwa, head of the UN Global Compact's anti-corruption work, told Africa Renewal, this provided a conducive atmosphere in which to involve the business community of Malawi more effectively in the fight against corruption. A few years ago it wasn't possible to take anti-corruption steps in the case of Malawi. But because the Global Compact will work for a local community, it has made considerable strides (Buhari et al., 2020).

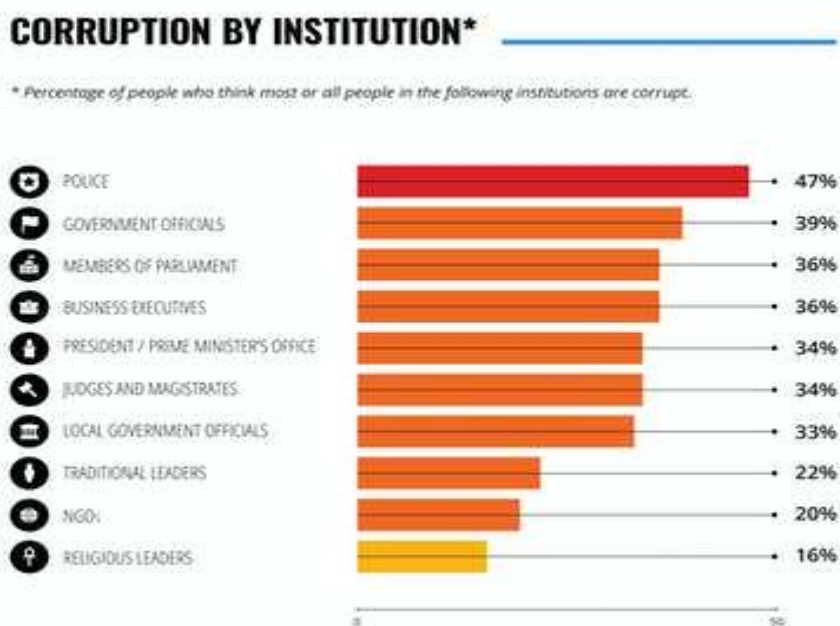
Several business-sponsored roundtables were coordinated by the Global Compact network in Malawi in 2005, along with the African Institute of Business-Citizenship. This contributed to the Leaders' Conference on the Building of Corruption Alliances (BCA), which was supported solely by the corps, but which brought together leaders of governmental organizations (including President Mutharika). It formed a taskforce against corruption that created a Company Code of Ethics against Corruption in 2006. This research complements previous studies sponsored by the African Regional Office (AfRO) in East Africa in partnerships with the East Africa Open Society Initiative (OSIEA) and in West Africa in collaboration with the OSIWA (NDIAYE, 2020). In general, the Open Society Foundations are focused on corruption and its consequences through funding to eradicate corruption through the development of lobbying campaigns to successfully discourage, track and prosecute corruption and the development of regulations, policies, and institutions. This work is part of the Private and Public Sector Transparency Initiative of the Democracy and Governance cluster at the Open Society Initiative for Southern Africa (OSISA). Kofi Annan argued that corruption is an insidious illness, having multiple corrosive effects on culture, as UN Secretary-General on 31 October 2003. Which undermines democracy and the rule of law, contributes to human rights abuses, distorts economies and destroys the quality of life, and facilitates the flourishing of organized crime, extremism, and other challenges to protection (Latter et al., 2017).

There are also instructive agreements in Africa that identify the broad criteria to confront major problems in terms of political progress, such as corruption. The African Union, at the regional level in July 2013, adopted the AU Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption (AUCPCC), which aims, among other things, to encourage and improve, through each State Party, the establishment of mechanisms needed to deter, track, prosecute and eliminate corruption and associated public and private offenses in Africa. On 5 August 2006, the AUCPCC came into effect. The Advisory Committee on Corruption of the AU (AUBC) was set up to report on the adoption by the General Assembly of the United Nations Convention against Corruption of the resolution by the United Nations Secretary-General. In 2007, the African Charter on Democracy Elections and

Governance (ACDEG) was adopted by the AU, which stresses the negative effect on electoral, democratic, and governance of corruption and advises the AU Member States to take the steps required to tackle the challenges. The SADC Protocol against Corruption aims at the sub-regional level to encourage and improve the establishment of mechanisms necessary to deter corruption within each Member State(Dziuba and Symkina, 2019).

Member States of the SADC developed different structures, regulations, policies, and institutions on prevention, detection, punishment, and eradication of corruption at the national level. Different reports suggest that corruption is on the increase and is rising every day. The Transparency International Awareness Index is the most evocative of these trends. The patterns and impacts of illegal financial transactions (IFFs), in particular concerning government delivery, have gained considerable attention in recent times. In 2015, for example, the high-level IFF panel of the African Union reported that Africa has lost more than \$1 trillion over the past few years in IFFs, with the continent lost \$50 billion a year by IFFs, which are nearly twice as many as Africa receives annual official development assistance. These are optimistic figures derived from the country's official annual import and export statistics. The high-level IFF panel of the AU states that corruption is rising as a result of bribery and drug trafficking(Eyo, 2017).

Figure 1: corruption by institutions.



Source: Transparency International 2019

It is also unbelievable, that police continue to receive the highest rates of corruption in Africa. There are also high rates of bribes for public utilities such as services like power and water and identity papers, including permits and passports. This idea has been abused practically for 10 years by the elites of various regimes in Africa. Even the state presidents were engaged in unethical acts, but no one could keep the systems to account for their tendencies to move from one government to another. The only factor that varies is the political mark, but players are essentially the same. With more power in the governing parties and stronger executive control in the electoral system, vertical and horizontal responsibility are being severely undermined. Africans in bureaucracy collusion is rife as corporations and private companies pay public officers to circumvent regulatory reach. Many unethical dealings have been involved for a long time by the police, finance minister, commerce ministry, industry, trade, as well as the customs and excise agency. In government procurement and tendering practices, collusion has also been prevalent(Umoru-Oki, 2018).

This legitimization of undemocratic trends has contributed to the attacks of government agencies like the Office for Anti-corruption (ACB), the judiciary, public media, and the courts. Some thus view any effort to curb corruption as a means to attain political importance and solve political issues. The assumption that the legitimate roles of anti-corruption agencies for political reasons are simply usurped will.

V. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, in the SADC region, public finance, legal structures, and administrative systems can handle corruption effectively. Most countries have an understated but theoretically effective financial intelligence institution known as the financial intelligence unit, which aims to ensure that the management has a finger on every big sum of the money. Therefore, it would be appropriate to purposely stop, the proverbial account of a family member of the senior government official to receive money from a service provider. The other is the forfeiture of goods and organizations for the maintenance of public results whose administrative authority is to correct malfunctions. Under the Wealth Forfeit Act, the owner of the property who is corrupt must reassure a court officer as to how their miraculously wealthy in dubious properties will be accessed, and hold them under state custody and treatment.

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