

**FIGHTING CORRUPTION IN THE SOUTH AFRICAN PUBLIC
SECTOR WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO COSTS AND
IMPACT**

BY

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**SUBMITTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS
FOR THE DEGREE OF**

DOCTOR OF LITERATURE AND PHILOSOPHY

IN THE SUBJECT

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

AT THE

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH AFRICA

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FEBRUARY 2005

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This study would not have reached completion without the inspiration and help which I have received from a number of institutions and individuals. While their names need to be mentioned in thanks and appreciation, they are of course in no responsible for the ideas or views that are expressed in the pages that follow. Professors Koos Pauw and Kobus Wessels, my promoter and joint promoter respectively, have been very supportive of my research work on the topic under consideration. Without their constructive criticisms and persistence this study would probably have remained unfinished. The Office of the Public Service Commission has provided me (as an employee there) with an almost perfect environment to gain significant insights into the operations of all tiers of government, especially those concerning initiatives against corruption. Permission to use official sources of information from departments of government is gratefully acknowledged. The Main Library at the University of South Africa has been a most valuable source of information to supplement my original sources and I received particular assistance there from the subject librarian, Ms Hleziphi Napaai. Scholars, experts and writers who have offered their advice and thoughts to enrich my work through personal interviews include Professor Leo Huberts at the Free University, Amsterdam; Professor Johann Graf Lambsdorf at the University of Passau, Germany; Jeremy Pope, a former Executive Director of Transparency International; Hennie van Vuuren, a senior programme manager at the Institute of Security Studies, Cape Town; Professor Mark Robinson of IDS at the University of Sussex; Dr Stuart Gilman of the Ethics Resource Centre in Washington DC, and Howard Whitton at the OECD in Paris. My colleagues Roderick Davids, John Mentoor, Johannes Mudau, Ms Marie van Blerk, Tshepo Mokademetsu and Ms Connie Gunn, all from the Office of the Public Service Commission, also deserve mention for their willingness to help locate and provide critical information throughout the course of this study.

SUMMARY

Corruption, understood as the misuse of public office for private gain, has become a matter of global concern. Numerous measures being taken, not least in South Africa, to contain its spread are increasingly regarded as attempts in "fighting corruption". The South African public sector provides the context for this study where manifestations of corrupt behaviour may be observed and analysed. Particular attention is given to the role, relevance and costs which, as this study shows, must first be calculated in monetary terms as a fiscal end in order for the task of fighting corruption to produce a sustainable impact. The national strategy developed by the South African government has been compromised by the absence of sufficient resources being committed from the national fiscus for its implementation. It is misleading to assume that new laws and tighter regulations will of themselves serve to deter corrupt practices. One notices a plethora of public administration reforms being initiated to control and prevent corruption in line with international best practice. Yet, as this study concludes, such efforts even at higher fiscal cost will not necessarily contribute to reduced corruption. No attempt should be made to create a situation of a "zero tolerance" level of corruption as this is not possible. Ultimately, the challenge for the South African public sector is to seek ways of rationalising existing resources such that a single agency led by someone with moral authority can be vested with powers to lead the fight against corruption.

Keywords: Corruption; governance; public ethics; public morality; preventing corruption; graft; public sector; combating corruption; public administration.

Acronyms

ACB	Anti-Corruption Branch
ACCC	Anti-Corruption Co-ordinating Committee
ACO	Anti-Corruption Office
ACU	Anti-Corruption Unit
AFU	Asset Forfeiture Unit
ANC	African National Congress
BPI	Bribe Payers Index
COSATU	Congress of South African Trade Unions
CMIS	Corruption Management Information System
CPI	Corruption Perceptions Index
CSIR	Council of Scientific and Industrial Research
DSO	Directorate of Special Operations
ICAC	Independent Commission Against Corruption
ICD	Independent Complaints Directorate
ISS	Institute of Security Studies
GEAR	Growth, Employment and Redistribution
GPAC	Global Programme Against Corruption
IDASA	Institute for Democracy in South Africa
MISA	Media Institute of South Africa
MRM	Moral Regeneration Movement
NACF	National Anti-Corruption Forum
NGO	Non-governmental organization

NIA	National Intelligence Agency
NIS	National integrity system
NNP	New National Party
NORAD	Norwegian Agency for Development Co-operation
ODAC	Open Democracy Advice Centre
OECD	Organisation for Economic Development and Co-operation
OPSC	Office of the Public Service Commission
PFMA	Public Finance Management Act
PSAM	Public Service Accountability Monitor
PSAS	Public Service Anti-Corruption Strategy
PSC	Public Service Commission
RDP	Reconstruction and Development Programme
SABC	South African Broadcasting Corporation
SACP	South African Communist Party
SADC	South African Development Community
SAMDI	South African Management Development Institute
SAPS	South African Police Services
SCM	Supply Chain Management
SMS	Senior Management Service
SIU	Special Investigating Unit
TAC	Treatment Action Campaign
TI	Transparency International
USAID	United States Agency for International Development

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