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REVIEW ARTICLE

THE ALARMING LEVELS OF CORRUPTION IN ZIMBABWE: AN ANALYSIS OF THIS DARK SIDE OF THE NATION (2013 – 2014)

***Dr Silas Luthingo Rusvingo**

Accounting and Information Systems Department, Faculty of Commerce, Great Zimbabwe University, Zimbabwe

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ABSTRACT

Several methods have been proposed for detection and removal of cracks in digitized paintings. Cracks deteriorate the quality of painting. A technique for the detection and removal of cracks in digitized image paintings that adapts and integrates a number of processing and analysis tools for digitized image painting is presented in this paper. The cracks are detected by thresholding the output of the morphological top-hat transform. After detecting cracks, a modified adaptive median filter (MAMF) is used to fill the cracks. The methodology performs very well on digitized paintings suffering from cracks.

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INTRODUCTION

To kick-start the discourse the Author would want to ask you and your neighbour what the word corruption means to you. The answer is dishonest or illegal behavior. With this definition let us then find out the corruption perceptions on corruption in Zimbabwe. According to Wikipedia (2014) corruption in Zimbabwe has become endemic within its political, private and civil sectors. To disabuse the Reader about any doubts he/she has on the alarming levels of corruption in Zimbabwe, the country ranks joint 163rd out of 176 countries of this world in the 2012 Transparency International Corruption Index ranking it alongside Equatorial Guinea. On a scale of 0 (highly corrupt) to 10 (very clean), the corruption perceptions Index marked Zimbabwe 2.0. What does this mean to you? The correct interpretation of the body language from these numbers is that there has been an increase in corruption since 1999 when the country ranked 4.1. On corruption in the public sector the findings of the 2000 survey commissioned by Transparency International Zimbabwe found that Zimbabwean citizens regarded the public sector as the most corrupt sector in the country. In this survey respondents favoured Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP) as being most corrupt followed by political parties, parliament, legislature, public officials/civil servants and the judiciary.

In 2008 a Transparency International Director announced that Zimbabwe loses US\$ 5 million to corruption every day of the 365 days of the year. If you were in doubt about the alarming levels of corruption these are the frightening statistics for all to see. To confirm the existence of corruption in Zimbabwe the Author will simultaneously carry out a short and relevant Literature Review and Research Methodology to find out what the stakeholders are saying. And without wasting precious little time below are the Literature Review and Research Methodology the Author intends to adopt in order to successfully expose the Research findings carry out this Literature Review.

The short and relevant Literature Review and Research Methodology carried out to expose the relevant Research findings

For his source of data the Author targeted the private media of the Zimbabwe Media, in particular the print. The Public Media is deliberately left out because it regurgitates propaganda in place of the facts and figures as they are on the ground and stated without fear, favour or prejudice. The dailies and weeklies of this private media comprised of the Standard and Newsday. The Author caught up with Makova (2013) and coming your way in just a moment is what he said about corruption in Zimbabwe is all about.

Bigwigs under probe for corruption (Makova 2013)

The Zimbabwe Anti-Corruption Commission (ZAAC) announces in September 2013 that it was going to embark on a

*Corresponding author: Dr Silas Luthingo Rusvingo
Accounting and Information Systems Department, Faculty of
Commerce, Great Zimbabwe University, Zimbabwe

full throttle investigation of all bigwigs involved in corrupt activities. This had come in the wake of Goodwills Masimirembwa getting involved in a US\$ 6 million dollars swindle about which His Excellence President Mugabe was fuming. Denford Chirindo, the Anti-corruption Chairman had stated that all the law enforcement agencies were going full swing into the investigation of all the corrupt senior officials. "We are geared to move forward" Chirindo said. "What other order do you want? It cannot be negotiated. The President's directive has to be executed to the later, otherwise the whip will be cracked on our backs". There was a clamp down on ZACC Commissioners who had wanted to investigate allegations of corruption against the Zimbabwe Mining Development Corporation, three ZANU PF cabinet ministers and the national Indigenisation and Economic Empowerment Board which was later blocked. Chirindo brushed aside the public spat between ZACC and the senior politicians was a thing of the past and that ZAAC had no fear to do their work. "The President said it loud and clear that corruption must go. What other protection do they want? All citizens must take heed. People must not be afraid as it is the duty of each and every individual to fight corruption".

Chirindo confirmed that from the President's language there was 100% political will in the fight against corruption and later appealed to parliamentarians to ensure ZACC received adequate funding to carry out its mandate (Makova 2013). ZACC had boasted that it was going to investigate the Reserve Bank Governor, Gideon Gono, Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai and Honourable Ignatius Chombo, Minister of Local government but people did not see that promise take off the ground because of lack of political will to fight corruption in the public sector. Noni who is also the Bulawayo Agenda Executive Director and Crisis in Zimbabwe Spokesperson said that it was unlikely that the country would see the naming and shaming of bigwigs involved in corruption. In December 2011, His Excellence President Mugabe confirmed that some of his cabinet ministers were corrupt to the core, demanding bribes of up to US\$ 10 million from potential foreign investors. However, no action had been taken against the suspects (Makova 2013). In his ongoing search for relevant literature on corruption in Zimbabwe, the Author caught up with Laiton (2014) who showed eagerness to share with the Author how corruption in Zimbabwe came alive. Below is his valuable contribution on the birth of corruption in Zimbabwe.

The birth of corruption in Zimbabwe (Laiton 2014)

The deadly HIV virus had caused its fair share of destruction to the Zimbabwean society and the economy and worse still continues to do so and likewise another pandemic of a different nature has now taken over. The graft pandemic has a non-directional relationship with abject poverty which currently adversely is affecting 72% of the Zimbabwean population (Staff Reporter 2014). Unlike the deadly virus which has now been tamed by the introduction by the antiretroviral drugs, corruption in Zimbabwe has proved a lot more difficult to suppress. In the 1980s corruption was rare with the exception of the much publicized Paweni Grain Scandal. The 1990s was dominated by the Willow gate Scandal which accounted for the likes of Nyagumbo who committed suicide, Enos Nkala who died a pauper and Callistus Ndlovu who is today a pauper. Other prominent

ministers fingered in the Willow gate Scandal were Fredrick Shava and Dzingai Mutumbuka. As history showed the Willow vale Mazda Industry culprits were never brought to book for reasons known to His Excellence President Mugabe. The government created an opportunity for other top officials to follow suit believing they would get the same protection their colleagues had enjoyed. As fate would have it, those that resigned would later blame themselves as they came to realize that sleaze was not a punishable offence in the country (Laiton 2014).

People who hang on like Callistus Ndhlovu had made it back into the political limelight while people like Maurice Nyagumbo who killed himself showed by his own hand must be turning in his grave and ruing why he killed himself because skulduggery is now the order of the day in government. Before the Author wraps up his discussion of the birth of sleaze in Zimbabwe it is worth the while to show the notable corruption cases since 1987:

- 1987 Zisco Steel Blast Furnace Scandal
- 1987 Air Zimbabwe Fokker Plane Scandal : \$ 100 million
- 1986 National railways Housing Scandal
- 1988 Willow gate Scandal
- 1989 ZRP Santana Scandal
- 1994 War Victims Compensation Scandal
- 1995 GMB Gain Scandal
- 1996 VIP Housing Scandal
- 1998 Boka Banking Scandal
- 1998 ZESA YTL Soltran Scandal
- 1998 Telecel Scandal
- 1998 Harare City Council Refuse Tender Scandal
- 1999 Housing Loan Scandal
- 1999 NOCZIM Scandal
- 1999 DRC Timber and Diamond Scandal UN Reported Scandals
- 1999 GMB Scandal
- 1999 Ministry of Water and Rural Development Chinese Tender Scandal
- 1999 VIP Land grab scandal
- 2001 Harare Airport scandal

Source: Dr G. Shana (2006) (Laiton 2014)

It is clear that the failure by government to take stern measures against its corrupt elements started breeding corruption within other government circles that would later spread to private institutions, which resulted in top musicians like Thomas Mapfumo and Solomon Skuza coming up with songs bemoaning corruption that had invaded Zimbabwe like a storm (Laiton 2014). Nemadire (2014) quite rightly argues that corruption is criminal, not political. Let us hear him make his presentation as below.

Corruption is criminal, not political (Madanhire 2014)

The way His Excellence President Mugabe handles corruption cases in Zimbabwe certainly calls for change if we are to avoid damaging the economy further argues Madanhire (2014) Since 1980 His Excellence President Mugabe and his ZANU PF party have always taken corruption as a political rather than as criminal offence and this has led to the downfall of the

country's economy. It is sad that whenever a corruption issue involving high ranking figures surfaces, ZANU PF calls for meetings to discuss 'how to handle it'. Why should the government call in politicians to solve a criminal issue? Corruption does not only hurt the economy but it is also undermines the rule of law and creates unnecessary bureaucracies designed for the sole purpose of extorting bribes. Naturally corruption goes hand in hand with the abuse of office to the detriment of many. During the mega salary storm people saw how people in high offices abused high offices to award themselves and their girlfriends hefty salaries at the expense of the taxpaying public (Mawere 2013). People in high offices facilitated the mushrooming of land barons through whom they fleeced thousands of their hard earned money (Mapepa 2013). These are criminal cases that cry for prosecution and not for the ZANU PF Politburo to discuss and find a way forward. And the way forward since independence from Britain in 1980 has been to find ways of protecting the fellows in high offices most of whom should be jailed for the safety of the economy (Madanhire 2014).

But ZANU PF's protection of such scum bugs has landed us with a wrecked economy. A small unlucky fry have been named, shamed or prosecuted to divert attention from the real criminals most of whom have been recycled in Cabinet portfolio. Because of the actions of these few criminals, the majority are denied quality education, economic opportunity and justice. But the greatest problem is the impunity with which these criminals go about their business. Because they knew that even if they are caught, political rather than criminal prosecution procedure will be instituted, they do as they please. Corruption has become so endemic that even those who are supposed to deal with the issue can no longer cast the first stone as it were. They have become part of the intricate web. They are both the actors and the referees, that is why they prescribe political solutions to criminal issues. And these people are only accountable to themselves and not the majority. The ruling party by deliberately prescribing a political solution to criminal cases of corruption becomes a haven for criminals who launch their attacks on the hapless economy from the refuge of the party. In Zimbabwe, it is difficult to distinguish ministers, members of parliament (MPs) and top government officials from criminals. But as long as those in power deliberately ignore the fact that corruption is criminal and not political we will wake up one day to find this country literally dead (Madanhire 2014).

The Author caught up with Honourable Jonathan Moyo, the Information, Media and Broadcasting services minister where he was declaring that corruption was public enemy number one. Details coming your way in just a moment.

Corruption is enemy number one - Moyo (Matenga 2014)

Addressing a breakfast meeting organized by Zimbabwe National Editors' forum Moyo declared corruption as public enemy number one and hailed the media for exposing it but urged the media to do it properly so that it gives the investigating Zimbabwe Republic Police the correct evidence on which to prosecute the corruption culprits. "Corruption is public enemy number one and seriously harmful and destructive to national interests", Moyo said. "Corruption affects the day to day lives on key goods and services essential

for the people to go about their livelihoods in an organized manner. They (some parastatals) are either recipients of state funds in the form of rates or fees for ZINARA, ZBC and other parastatals but are so corrupt that they do not understand that collecting a fee is a grant", said Moyo. (Matenga 2014). He said there was more on mega salaries and urged the media to investigate the awarding of tenders where the Honourable Minister said the country was losing money through corrupt officials.

"Corruption is a threat to national security. In fact a mere serious one especially when it involves the abuse of state funds. The first line of attacking corruption is exposing it. You cannot fight if behind the scenes and any attempt to do so is corruption. Exposing it creates possibility for other arms of state, including the police to do something about it, but you know what they do. They say give us the evidence first. Besides that you will be making allegations and no responsible authority will follow allegations and by law people are innocent until proven guilty". Honourable minister Moyo added that there was no consensus in the fight of corruption nor was there a political will to fight (Matenga 2014). Mudzingwa (2014) highlighted the high corruption levels at Corruption. High School which he turned into a case study to explain the alarming levels of corruption at government level. For more details let us hear him make his presentation as below.

Chaos High School: A Case Study of corruption (Mudzingwa 2014)

Chaos High School in a utopia Zimbabwe is a place where hedonistic tendencies take precedence over everything else. At Chaos high School, renowned for alarming levels of corruption teachers and students attend classes when they feel like. Teachers both male and female engage in sexual activities with students willy nilly. Female students are raped, left, right and center. Cases of drug abuse and abortions are galore. School funds are abused left right and centre and core educational and extra-curricular activities were stopped long back because funds meant for the activities are abused by a few powerful individuals such as sports master, senior mistress, deputy head and heads of departments who form the core of the school's governance system. When complaints from society about the corrupt tendencies at the school get louder, a few prefects are sacrificed through fake suspensions or very rarely, fake expulsions. At times, to pacify society particularly parents who make the loudest noise because it is their money which is being abused teachers are relocated to other portfolios of sports mistress, the senior master becomes the second deputy head of the school and so on. It is not surprising that these same characters are later recycled to the same portfolios. Sometimes the portfolios are renamed to fool the people (Mudzingwa 2014).

The question that begs the answer is: Who is to blame for the rot at Chaos High School? Of course it is the Head, the buck stops with him, the head of the school. And worse still, to assume that the leader is so morally upright that one day he will deal with the rot at the school is neither here nor there. Either the head will be turning a blind eye to the rot or he may have no means of dealing with it. The small fry (the prefect in this case) are sacrificed (Mudzingwa 2014).

This scenario at Chaos High School parallels the general scenario situation in Zimbabwe concerning corruption in Zimbabwe. There is a serious attempt to sell the majority the dummy that His Excellence President Mugabe would be unaware of the levels of corruption in government which is some sick joke really. If His Excellence President Mugabe was so daft he would not have stayed in power for more than 30 years. Like the head of Chaos High School the buck stops with him. The levels of corruption are so high alarming there is no way His Excellence would not know what was happening around him. The corruption scourge is so abundant that it cuts across all the sectors of society and the scandals are of a high profile which points to the involvement of ministers and other top government officials. The death of the economy is there for everyone to see and one of the major causes is corruption. Surely people cannot assume the head of government was unaware. What is also evident is that certain individuals have been fingered or openly named in corruption scams, but the more they are fingered, the more they bounce back or are recycled as government ministers.

Corruption was not stopped at inception and the trend is getting worse and more open by the day. The scams intensify as the year's progress showing that the corrupt government officials get more and more confident knowing that nothing would happen to them. Today the government seems to have embraced corruption as a way of doing business. The president himself has publicly castigated corruption to the extent of citing corruption at low levels such as road blocks. This shows that he is aware of what is happening in the country and people cannot be duped into thinking otherwise. And the point remains, the buck stops at him. As long as His Excellence President Mugabe remains leader of this country, corruption taking place in the country will continue to soil his name and reputation the way it soiled the Head of Chaos High School. There are no two ways about it. The people will continue hating his government with the same intensity that his top officials engage in acts of corruption (Mudzingwa 2014).

In certain circles in our society today, there is a perception growing thicker by the day that lack of political will is hampering the corruption fight in the country. The abnormal which has become our normal is that there is heated debate about so and so getting involved in corruption but this dies down as time moves on. The case in point is the US\$ 6 million swindle case involving Masimirembwa then Chairman of the Zimbabwe Mining Development Corporation and a Ghanaian (Matombo 2013). Let us team up with Mutingwende (2014) to hear more about his fascinating story on the endemic scourge in Zimbabwe..

Lack of political will hampers corruption fight (Mutingwende 2014)

Proverbially speaking *muzivi wenzira yeparuware ndiye mufambi wayo* (meaning he who plays the devils' advocate for corruption is himself corrupt through and through). According to Mutingwende (2014) lack of political will is standing in the way of the fight against corruption in Zimbabwe. This came to light at a consultative workshop on the assessment of Zimbabwe's anti-corruption laws convened by the anti-corruption Trust of Southern Africa at the Bronte Hotel in Harare in March 2014. Presenting their reports legal

practitioners Alan Chaumba and retired Justice Mujuru said Zimbabwe had taken positive steps in enacting anti-corruption legislation through the constitution that gave rise to the anti-corruption commission. "First there is need to consolidate all corruption – related legislation matters in one law to create a comprehensive legal framework and also to examine ways to enhance coordination among the different institutions" Chaumba said. Justice Mujuru said the solution to dealing with corruption from a legal perspective is in capacitating and operationalizing the anti-corruption commission (ZACC) and blamed political bickering for stalling the process.

"ZACC has the power to investigate and expose corruption both in the public and private sector. It is also empowered to combat corruption, theft, misappropriating, abuse of power, improper conduct in the public and private sectors" Mujuru said. Apart from promoting honesty, financial discipline and transparency in public and private sectors, Mujuru said. ZAAC also had powers to direct the Commissioner – General of police to investigate cases of suspected corruption and report to the Commission of any such investigation. Majuru bemoaned the fact that at a time corruption cases are on the increase government has not renewed the mandate of ZAAC Commissioners excerpt that of its Chairman, rendering the institution a toothless bull dog. To that end Majuru and Chaumba urged authorities to channel adequate financial and human resources to relevant anti-corruption bodies like ZAAC, Zimbabwe Republic Police and the Department of anti-corruption and anti-monopolies in the Ministry of Home Affairs. Enhanced technical assistance could also be handy in fully implementing anti-corruption legislation. This could be through capacity building programmes for authorities responsible for establishing and managing protection programmes, Charamba said (Mutingwende 2014). Towo (2014) said it was time we dealt with corruption and not gloss over it. For more on his contribution the next paragraph has all the details.

Time we dealt with corruption and not gloss over it (Towo 2014)

Corruption in our society has become a cancer to be fought with relentless determination. But the inaction of His Excellence President Mugabe and his deputy Amai Joyce Mujuru have allowed the disease to thrive and spread like cancer (Towo 2014). There have been many earth moving scandals involving senior politicians since independence from Britain in 1980 but they have been protected by the system and the cases swept under the carpet. The result is that corruption is justified as political strategy and can be patronage for political protection. With the right connection the rule of law has often been circumvented, albeit for self-enrichment. There is a serious disempowerment in these scavengers. They have become so intoxicated with power and the noise from their propaganda machines to the extent they have the obduracy to believe that it is a political party fast. Morality and conscience are on the downturn even in churches where church leaders are busy chanting the chorus of prosperity and at the same time covetously practicing wife accumulation. The sudden explosion of unethical practices in the public sector and the sad death of ethics cannot be just wished away at this time when the country has an unemployment rate of 80%, challenges in the provision and timely delivery of basic social

services such as water and electricity and other despicable abnormalities. This patronage corruption is hemorrhaging the economy while national integrity systems, parliament, judiciary and other watchdog institutions have lost their relative autonomy. ZAAC is just a paper tiger and the law enforcement system is toothless save for incarcerating innocent political victims. The few investigated cases are prolonged in nature and often do not result in conviction. Regardless of the abundance of evidence and the implications, the culprits seem to have been forgotten and rewarded in one way or the other (Matombo 2013) (Towo 2014).

It is important to remind one another that ethics is something like electricity, not apparent to the naked eye, but it is felt and becomes apparent when the power is switched on. It has to do with a sense of right and wrong – what is permissible, what is done or not done. This is lacking in our society at this moment in time. What then can we do in this perilous predicament. It is good to realize that ethics is an aid to moral navigation. We can sail without it if we wish but at our own peril. All that is needed for evil to prevail is that we stand aside and do nothing about it. Let us do away with this disgusting feeling of helplessness and do something; if not for us then for our children: the future generations (Towo 2014).

All spheres of our lives are premised on politics, government policies, their implications and dynamics behind resource allocation, distribution and consumption at macro-level. We are hindered by a deeply entrenched system of patronage, more so when government and ZANU PF have become identical Siamese twins. With accountability and professionalism now subordinated to party politics, it is inevitable that immoral, criminal and corrupt activities that serve political advantage would be given immunity impunity only judged and chastened if they did not. His Excellence President Mugabe continues to adopt an attitude of bewilderment, expressing occasional bouts of anger threatening fire and brimstone as he did in September 2013 alleging former Zimbabwe Mining Development Corporation (ZMDC) Chairperson, Godwills Masimirembwa received a bribe of US\$ 6 million in a botched diamond mining deal. He later on made an embarrassing climb down absolving Masimirembwa of any wrong doing. His Excellence President Mugabe is urged to set his priorities right and walk the talk or stay the course on your promises (Matombo 2013).

Corruption is a venality to be frowned upon and to be embraced with upon hands. Corruption deserves to be laid bare and those found wanting should be named and shamed and face the full wrath of law. The cases of ZBC, PSMAS, Air Zimbabwe, ZESA, Harare City Council and the list is endless are classic examples of the extent of looting that has caused untold anger among ordinary citizens, among them the Author. Scavengers continue with their inexplicable obstinacy and shameless plundering of the country through engaging in various nefarious activities such as nepotism, corruption and human rights abuses and still have the audacity to sing the sanctions mantra/propaganda as the impediment to service and viability. The sanctions narrative is a reckless self-serving belated and tired rhetoric. People like the Author demand accountability as of yesterday, real sanctions on the people of Zimbabwe are corruption, looting of state enterprises through obscene salaries and other corrupt procurement tendencies

(Towo 2014). The Author could not wait to welcome Madanhire (2014) when he came forward with his contribution on the lawlessness which he said was crippling the Harare City Council (HCC). It being the Author's second home for 30 years, his contribution had all the prospects of fascinating story from *matongo angu* (meaning the Author's former place of work). Below is how his contribution on the lawlessness in the HCC penned out.

Lawlessness cripples City Council

To underscore the corruption levels in the HCC the Author will flavor this contribution with what the Author personally experienced when he acquired his PhD degree with the Irish University Business School, London UK in 2008. From zero he had become a hero and a serious threat to anybody harbouring ambitions to land any of the high profile positions such as Town Clerk, City Treasury and the like. The corrupt leadership in the HCC had in no time crafted a package which they dangled to me for an uptake. The HCC offered one year salary with all the allowances to get the Author of the way to which the Author counter offered 5 years salary with all the benefits. There was a stalemate and so the matter was referred for arbitration who gave the Author a package of 4 years salary with all the benefits which were too sumptuous to resist. But the irony is 4 years down the line the HCC is showing signs of struggling to pay the Author his full benefits. This is a confirmation that the HCC merely wanted the Author out of the HCC at any cost. The truth is, they are stuttering to pay the Author. So there is another form of corruption for you the beloved Reader before the Author hands you over to Madanhire as below.

Lawlessness cripples Harare City Council (Madanhire 2014)

On the general appearance of the City of Harare today it is safe to say *aive madziva ave mazambuka* (meaning Harare has lost its glamour) (Maisiri 2013). The City of Harare was at one time considered the best metropolis on the whole of the African continent. Its residents, proudly dubbed it the Sunshine City on account of its cleanliness and its climate which was second to none in the world. That it has now degenerated to become one of the most difficult capitals to live in is a sad story: most of its roads are beset with deep potholes which have become a permanent feature, traffic lights rarely ever work, the streets are not only dark at night but are strewn with litter and tragically people are now no longer friendly as they used to be – they are now characterized by a stiff upper lip. Four million people live in the city and its immediate environments. All these people in one way or another, contribute to the City's purse, be it through the payment of rates or direct payments for services such as market stalls, parking fees and generally the commerce that takes place in the city hourly. There are so many revenue streams that the city council can tap into. But two demons, inefficiency and corruption seem to be hampering the collection of revenue and thereby, massively impact on service delivery. Increasingly the City fathers seem to be aware of all the impediments to efficient collection of revenue. Addressing a full council meeting on 07 March 2014, Deputy Mayor Thomas Muzuva named a list of activities that could easily bring hundreds of thousands of dollars into the City's coffers regularly. He gave

examples of Siyaso and Mupedzanhamo markets where 4 500 traders own stalls for which each should pay \$61 monthly to council. He talked of toll fees paid at the bus terminus which never reached council coffers (Madanhire 2014). But his cry was that of chimera in the wilderness. He said the city was unable to collect all this money because of warlordism being practiced by some ruling party apparatchiks. He named one such warlord who collects US\$300 from the 4 500 stalls mentioned above apparently for his personal use. The same gangster is allegedly also collecting US\$4 000 every day from the 400 buses that use Mbare Musika bus terminus. This points to a kind of state approved lawlessness. It is obvious that ZANU PF is aware of these practices and equally obvious too is that this individual collecting that money on a daily basis have godfathers in the ruling ZANU PF party who protect them and also benefit from these activities. It would take a simple order from someone in government to stop this looting, but that leadership is not forthcoming. It is this kind of corruption that has prejudiced service delivery to the city. It is high time government did something about this lawlessness and corruption. The seemingly robust way government has descended on parastatals and other government institutions in its fight against corruption should be applied to the Harare City Council whose way of doing business impacts on the daily lives of 4 million people. Harare cannot be allowed to continue to decline into medieval times by commission and omission (Madanhire 2014). Makova (2014) takes the bull by its horns and tells His Excellence President Mugabe in the face that he has no genuine interest in fighting corruption. Details on his contribution coming your way in just a moment.

Mugabe has no genuine interest in fighting graft (Makova 2014)

Civil society groups have dared His Excellence President Mugabe to name and shame all his Cabinet Ministers and top government officials involved in corruption activities. His Excellence President Mugabe had revealed that a cabinet minister and a parliamentarian had demanded a \$ 120 000 for them to facilitate a meeting with him. In 2012 then President of South Africa, Thabo Mbeki had told him that some Cabinet Ministers were demanding as much as US\$ 10 million from potential investors to facilitate investment in the country. He also reported Godwills Masimirembwa, then Chairman of ZMDC demanding US\$ 10 million from a Ghanaian foreign investor. He later retracted the allegations saying he had been misinformed. Civil Society groups had implored His Excellence President Mugabe to have Cabinet implicated in corruption to face arrest and removal from government to facilitate investigations (Makova 2014)

The Zimbabwe Human rights NGO forum executive director Abel Chikomo had wondered why His Excellence President Mugabe could not name the Cabinet Ministers and Parliamentarian who he reported had demanded US\$ 120 000 from a foreign investor to facilitate a meeting with him. Does this mean he is scared of his Cabinet Ministers? Chikomo went on to say that some people are untouchable when it comes to corruption because their names are kept a secret for their protection. "Every time he addresses a gathering he get excited only to retract later", Chikomo said. "People should not read too much into what he is saying. It is façade that he is fighting corruption". Chikomo repeated that there is no will to

fight corruption in the country. When anti-corruption commissioners wanted to investigate cabinet ministers they were victimized and ordered to stop the investigations. "Why did he Mugabe not intervene and stop their persecution?" Chikomo asked. "The President must come out clear that either he is unwilling or unable to fight corruption." Chikomo said ministers presided over some parastatals where chief executive officers were earning monthly mega salaries of US\$ 500 000. "There is corruption in parastatals and this is because of ministers. If Mugabe is serious about fighting corruption, 90% of cabinet ministers would be in jail", he said.

Transparency International Zimbabwe (TIZ) chairperson, Loughty Dube challenged His Excellence President Mugabe to suspend the cabinet minister who had demanded US\$ 120 000 from a foreign investor to show he was serious about fighting graft in this country. Dube said evidence on the ground showed that government was not committed to effectively deal with corruption. While His Excellence promised to deal with corruption not even a single person among the mega salary earners were arrested and prosecuted. The Labour body, the Zimbabwe congress of Trade Union castigated His Excellence President Mugabe that his threats made against the perpetrators of corruption at gatherings was mere talk to make people laugh otherwise he is not serious about fighting graft (Makova 2014).

Moyo said that was unfortunate that the people most vocal about corruption ended up being labeled imperialist sponsored. Those who were also supposed to spearhead the fight against corruption were themselves to confirm that the problem of corruption in the country would not be solved in short to medium term. With the alarming levels of corruption the Zim Asset blue print was bound to fail (Tauya 2013) (Makova 2014). Tagwirei (2014) had a very powerful message in his contribution on corruption. Below let us hear more about his message.

Failure to deal with corruption will ruin the economy (Tagwirei 2014)

The word corruption is now familiar to many people in Zimbabwe. So many times have people written and spoken about corruption. Fromm evidence on the ground the politically well-connected scumbags have survived while the small fry was made to suffer for his corruption tendencies. Corruption causes many political, economic, social and environmental challenges. On world anti-corruption day in December 2013 the department of Islamic Development in Malaysia had urged Muslims to combat corruption saying that it could ruin their country. "The scourge of can destroy good values, justice, oppress people and ruin democracy", said Jakim. Corruption undermines democratic institutions, slows down economic development and contributes to governmental instability. An organ devoted to fighting corruption in Ethiopia, Transparency Ethiopia says that corruption causes many political, economic, social and environmental challenges. Politically corruption impedes democracy and the rule of law. Corruption leads to public institutions to lose legitimacy when they misuse their power for private interests. Corruption negatively impacts society leading to political intolerance, lack of accountability and low levels of democratic structures. "And economically corruption leads to

the depletion of national wealth as diversion and misallocation, conversion of public wealth into private and personal use rises. Large scale corruption therefore severely hurts the economy and impoverishes the entire population. In social sphere corruption discourages people from working together for the common good. Frustration and general apathy among the public result in weak civil society. Demanding and paying bribes becomes the tradition” says Transparency Ethiopia.

“Closer home, corruption is said to have been one of the critical factors leading to the downfall of past regimes by way of undermining the legitimacy of governments and weakening their structures, reducing productivity, hindering development, worsening poverty, marginalizing the poor, creating social unrest and then to their downfall”.

Corruption continues to be one of the greatest factors of poverty and internecine conflicts in developing countries. Although Africa is endowed with natural resources, we continue to struggle and scramble for a position in the lower rings of the United Nations Development Index. We keep grappling with the ever changing trends in global politics, economic and technological advancements due to debilitating effects of corruption (Tagwirei 2014).

In the case of Zimbabwe, Zimbabweans are questioning why most of our political leaders become filthy rich when they get into government? What really made our leaders so filthy rich when Zimbabwe was getting so poor? Why is the wealth gap between leaders and the public so big now, if leaders have not been squandering public resources for personal interests. ZAAC should be capacitated for it to bring all bigwigs implicated in corruption to book. No one must be spared regardless of political or social standing (Makova 2014). Another contributor Langa (2014) had dared His Excellence to name and shame all the corrupt ZANU PF ministers. The paragraph below has more on this story.

Name, shame corrupt ZANU PF Ministers (Langa 2014)

The MDC-T Mbizo Member of Parliament had dared His Excellence President Mugabe to name and shame all the ZANU PF cabinet ministers and other government top officials to grovel his commitment to ending the scourge of corruption in the country. Chikwinya blamed His Excellence President Mugabe whom he said lacked the political will to end corruption by his ZANU PF colleagues in government. “In his speech at the ZANU PF conference in December 2013, Mugabe informed the nation of cabinet Ministers who had taken bribes but nothing happened. He said former Zimbabwe Mining Development Corporation Board Chairman Godwills Masimirembwa was corrupt but nothing happened and at his birthday banquet in February 2014 Mugabe spoke of a Cabinet Minister and Member of Parliament whom he said had engaged in corrupt activities but nothing happened to give impunity to the offenders”, said Chikwinya (Langa 2014). Chikwinya continued with his censure for His Excellence President Mugabe when he said, “It becomes a problem if he does not take action on these people who are misinforming the President and then they should be fired. The Central Intelligence Boss should be fired if he is misinforming Mugabe”. Chikwinya said a whistle blower’s bill should be

brought to parliament soon so that anyone who wanted to expose corruption is protected. “Zimbabwe ratified the United Nations convention against corruption in 2007 but does not have a whistle blower to date”, Chikwinya said. Chikwinya said Parliament as an arm of the government should be involved in the vetting of parastatal board members. MPs (Members of Parliament) are voices of the people and therefore need to be acquainted with technical capacity to vet member of boards” he said (Langa 2014). With this worthwhile contribution from Langa (2014) the assessment of the corruption levels in Zimbabwe comes to an end. Up next is the Summary which is a shortened précis of the discourse in this Paper.

Summary

According to Wikipedia (2014) corruption in Zimbabwe had become endemic within its political, private and civil sectors. The measurement done in 2012 had shown that corruption levels in Zimbabwe were indeed on the increase. In the short and relevant literature review the Author lined up ten or more journalists from the private media to give us what in their opinion, they wanted to say or write about to convince the audience that corruption does indeed exist in Zimbabwe at alarming levels in the public, private and civil society sectors.

In his contribution to start the ball rolling Makova (2013) of the Standard Newspaper announces that bigwigs in both government and the ZANU PF party were under probe for corruption by the Zimbabwe Anti-corruption Commission. Laiton (2014) from the Newsday Newspaper painstakingly traced the genesis of the scourge of corruption right at independence from Britain in 1980 right up to 2001. He bemoaned that despite the evidence of corruption in high places is both government and ZANU PF only a few unlucky once and the small fry had paid the price for corruption with the politically well-connectedscum bugs walking scot free.

As is always the case, Madanhire (2014) and editor of the Newsday gave a very powerful contribution on the scourge of corruption in Zimbabwe when he set out to put the record straight when he said corruption is a criminal offence in need of criminal prosecution in the courts and not a ZANU PF politburo to decide on the way forward on a cabinet minister involved in corruption. His Excellence President Mugabe is getting it all wrong in his misdirected fight against corruption in Zimbabwe. Honourable Minister Moyo of Information, Media and Broadcasting services had in his contribution categorically pointed out that corruption was public enemy to the country and the scourge is faced with a lack of political will to fight it (Matenga 2014). Mudzingwa (2014) came in with his narrative of the Chaos High School in which he brilliantly equated to government who are proving unable to fight corruption and its life threat to society who are in turn made to pay the price for the existence of corruption in the country.

Mutingwende (2014) highlighted in his contribution that the lack of political will emerged as the biggest undoing to efforts by ZAAC and all law enforcement agencies to fight and eliminate the scourge from among the society. Towo (2014) calls for time to genuinely fight corruption and not gloss over it. His Excellence President Mugabe who has proved incapable

to fight the corruption scourge in society. Madanhire comes back with a fascinating story on the lawlessness in the Harare City Council (HCC) where through inefficiency and corruption HCC is made to lose millions of revenue through corruption by ZANU PF bigwigs. Makova (2014) reiterates the same undoing in the fight against corruption of His Excellence President Mugabe lacking the political will to deal decisively with corruption. Tagwirei (2014) highlighted that it is corruption and nothing else which was the greatest undoing to the economy. And finally Langa (2014) urged His Excellence President Mugabe to come down heavy on perpetrators of corruption by naming and shaming them to deter others of like mind to engage in corruption. With the Summary conveniently out of the way up next is the Conclusion of the study.

Conclusion

In Rusvingo (2008) Kenkel (1984) said that a Conclusion is arrived at from a choice of either the Null Hypothesis (H_0) or the Alternative Hypothesis (H_1). For the study in this Paper the Conclusion is choosing either of:

H_0

There is no alarming levels of corruption in Zimbabwe today

or

H_1

They are alarming levels of corruption in Zimbabwe today.

Given the overwhelming evidence in support of the existence of corruption in Zimbabwe for all to see that the Conclusion is the Alternative Research hypothesis which states that there are alarming levels of corruption in Zimbabwe today.

The Author then went on to reject the Null Research hypothesis and accept the Alternative Research hypothesis above which is going to be the Conclusion of this Paper. With the Conclusion now out of the way up next are the Recommendations. Recommendations are designed for risk treatment which is to either reduce or eliminate altogether the underlying causes of the scourge of corruption in the country. More details coming your way as below.

Recommendations

If there was no treatment for the deadly HIV virus the world would have been wiped of its population a long time ago. But with this treatment which is life prolonging one can hardly tell an HIV positive patient from an HIV negative patient. Now going back to the problem under discussion in this Paper the Recommendations designed for this Paper shall be:

- The buck stops at His Excellence President Mugabe. What good reason has he not to name and shame the perpetrators of corruption in this country? This poor response by His Excellence President Mugabe is proving not deterrent enough. People with corruption will continue with, their favourite pastime knowing fully well that His Excellence President will do nothing but to give them protection.

- The ZAAC and ZRP as the country's law enforcers should be capacitated by being adequately funded to carry out their constitutional mandate without fear, favour or prejudice.

With this mouthful of a statement the Author will proceed to articulate the key assumption under which the Paper was presented. Up next is this Key Assumption.

Key Assumption

In presenting this paper the Author would, right from the outset, wish to reassure the beloved Reader that the facts and figures herein contained were stated as they are on the ground without fear, favour or prejudice. Again in whatever people do it is always appropriate to start and end with a short prayer targeting the Almighty God and the country's Ancestral Spirits so that the scourge of corruption should not continue to wreak havoc on the already HIV inflicted and suffering people of Zimbabwe (Murandu 2014).

Short prayer for Zimbabwe

In the face of this pandemic threatening to destroy the nation of Zimbabwe the Author's short prayer seeking relief for the suffering people of Zimbabwe is:

"Mwari neVadzimu vose venyika ye Zimbabwe komborerai iyi nyika nevanhu vayo kuti irege kuramba ichtambudzwa ne'corruption' pamusoro pekutambudzwa neHIV Amen.

(meaning God and all the country's Ancestral Spirits please give us relief from the life threatening scourge of corruption which has permeated all sectors of our society including the churches, Amen).

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