

ELEMENTS OF AN ANTI-CORRUPTION PROGRAM

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International experience suggest that a successful anti-corruption program should be based on three elements: (i) prevention; (ii) enforcement; and (iii) public awareness

1. PREVENTION.

The focus of prevention is: (i) to reduce opportunities for corruption, and (ii) to make corruption more difficult to undertake by improving transparency and accountability. It would involve:

- Privatization of Government enterprises and services to minimize corruption opportunities.
- De-regulation, to reduce number of licenses and registrations that require individual intervention of officials.
- Eliminate Government discretionarily, by eliminating “exemptions” to laws and regulations and making laws more precise.
- Streamline tax collections and audits.
- Introduce competitive procedures for public procurement.
- Reduce the size of the Government and re-focus its role to minimize opportunities for improper interventions and corruption.
- Decentralize Government functions to bring decisions closer to the public and improve accountability
- Reform the Civil Service to make it more professional, including (i) increasing salaries of key government officials; (ii) rotate frequently public servants in “vulnerable” positions; (iii) mandate public servants to declare their income/assets.

2. ENFORCEMENT

Develop the legal framework to ensure discipline and strong prosecution. This would involve:

- Development of adequate avenues for “appeals” of Government decisions, including a system for review of tax decisions.
- Develop effective channels for complains of Government actions.
- Develop a strong “watchdog” agency (Audit).
- Ensure that the laws will clearly define penalties for corruption.
- Improve the court system (Judiciary) to expedite the processing and resolution of cases.
- Strengthen Enforcement agencies, such as FBI equivalents.

3. PUBLIC AWARENESS

Make people aware of their rights and the rules of the game. For this:

- Improve Government Information Systems at all levels to keep the Government and the public informed of payments, expenditures, subsidies, etc.
- Publish widely Government rules, such as Tax Bulletins, customs regulations, quality certifications, etc.
- Enlist the support of the Press and NGOs in dealing with corruption.
- Use surveys of opinions to disseminate widely concerns on corruption.