



Speech to the Council for the Advancement of the South African Constitution (COSAC) Pledge Convention Held at Walter Sisulu Square in Kliptown Soweto. August 20, 2011.

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## The Face of Corruption

We are living in interesting time in our beloved country. During the years of the liberation of our people we used to have a centre that held us all together as a nation of the oppressed. That centre was the urge to liberate ourselves from the fangs of Apartheid. We had a unity of purpose and that unity of purpose and the centre was driven by the 'we' tenet. Our respective organisations were the centre and the adhesive that united our people. The / has since negated the we tenet, to this extent individuals have become the centre. What this means for our young democracy is that the character of our society is no more determined by its material production but by an individual's material possession. This to SANCO is the beginning of our societal decay in terms of norms and the ushering in of corruption that is threatening our young democracy more so it's very foundation which is our world renowned Constitution envied by democrats and hated by tin pot dictators.

*Corruption has increased over the last three years, say six out of 10 people around the world. One in four people report paying bribes in the last year. More than 20 countries have reported significant increases in petty bribery since 2006. The biggest increases were in Chile, Colombia, Kenya, FYR Macedonia, Nigeria, Poland, Russia, Senegal and Thailand. More than one in two people in Sub-Saharan Africa reported paying a bribe - more than anywhere else in the world.*

*Poorer people are twice as likely to pay bribes for basic services, such as education, than wealthier people.*

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*These are the findings of the 2010 Global Corruption Barometer.*

Our communities cannot turn a blind eye when our country deteriorates into a banana republic as corruption has successfully eroded the rule of law in this country.

1. Criminals roam our streets raping, killing, maiming and terrorising our communities. They have become a law unto themselves because they are untouchable. Our law enforcement agencies cannot take them to book because part of these syndicates.
2. Government's plans to eradicate informal settlement remains a figment of our imagination given that the houses are rented out or sold to people who don't qualify to occupy these houses including foreigners.
3. Small Medium Enterprises more so those owned by Blacks in particular African collapse every time there is a change in political administration. This is because those who come in want to bring their own milk cows. We have Government officials who have since left the service disgracefully yet their life style remains high despite not having a formal declared income. This is so because they rule from the grave that is they still determine who must be paid or not. In this way they only prioritise they people who line up their pockets. Our Government has failed to give us statistics of how many BEE companies that collapse as a result of non payment of their invoices despite having done their work with diligence. Their only crime is for refusing to buy their own invoices.
4. Service Delivery is undermined by corrupt officials in cahoots with private sector. To what extent has Government officials addressed the issues raised by our communities?
5. There cases where corruption syndicates blatantly collude with state officials to undermine the freedom of people to engage in business. Some if these officials are found in SARS, NPA and other institutions. Our Constitutions guarantees all citizens certain rights, these are negated by these corruption and criminal syndicates in cahoots.

Corruption creates a culture underpinned by the perception that with cash one can buy their way through any situation. This includes but is not limited to traffic offense, criminal cases, tax debts, rape, murder, abuse of women or children, etc.

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The ultimate effects of corruption if unchecked are to usher in a counter revolutionary dispensation. We can only look up North to inform ourselves.

SANCO fight against corruption is underpinned by the following programs;

1. Establishment and promotion of Community Based Cooperatives which must be awarded contracts by Government and Private sector in a preferential basis through set asides. For instance why should companies that have no interest in an institution like schools and its adjacent communities is awarded a project to maintain the infrastructure. Such projects must be reserved for Community Based Cooperatives with the project management being done by experience companies through a twining program or meaningful partnership.
2. Establishment of street communities as Committees for the Defence of our Liberation or Revolution
3. A hotline that will expose all forms of corruption being it petty or white collar. This line will be managed by an independent institution. This will ultimately be transformed into Community Advisory Centres that will focus on service delivery.
4. Campaign for a form of lifestyle audit for all government officials. For instance how does a Government official who is a director manage to buy a Porche Cayenne Turbo and stay in a Golf Estate? Aren't this some form of self-righteous and the highest level of arrogance?
5. Contribute and participate in the Rite of Passage programmes aimed at our teenagers and youth in conjunction with like minded stakeholders.

We all have the responsibility to restore the rule of law in our beloved country. To that extent SANCO pledge itself to the defence of our Revolution in particular the Constitution which is eroded and undermined by corruption. We must go beyond just red carding, we must name and shame all those proven to have a hand in corruption and criminality. We support the establishment and or the strengthening of existing state institutions of state to eradicate corruption. Such institutions must driven by all sectors of our society including Civil Society.

“But to win, we must have the sympathy of the masses. An absolute majority is not always essential; but what is essential to win and retain power is the majority of the working people and exploited rural population. These are people who usually live a philistine life and

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drag out a miserable existence, and who have never heard anything about politics, begin to act in a revolutionary way. If the movement spreads and intensifies, it gradually grows into a revolution". This revolution against corruption must therefore include the masses of our people who are denied access to services as a result of rampant corruption in our society. SANCO pledges to mobilise the masses of our people to eradicate this parasite threatening our young democracy.