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**IMPACT OF CORRUPTION  
ON DEMOCRATIC  
GOVERNANCE IN AFRICA**

**THE CASE OF CENTRAL AFRICA**

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# IMPACT OF CORRUPTION ON DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE

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## ABSTRACT

The focus of this research was to understand the Impact of Corruption on democratic governance in Central Africa.

To achieve the stated objectives the researcher used the methodologies that were convenient where by the selected population were interviewed in order to get the concrete understanding of the topic.

It was not only the general population who were interviewed but also the selected people who have access to understanding the impact of corruption on democratic governance.

The main objectives are:

- To identify the forms of corruption affecting democratic governance.
- To identify what is done by governments to prevent and to punish the corruption culprits and through which procedures.
- To give practical recommendations on how to deal with corruption and build institutions with zero tolerance to corruption.

The research was conducted by the use of questionnaires, interview and researcher's observations.

The findings of this research were drawn from 30 respondents, 25 of them are different ordinary people who were picked randomly and other 5 people who are permanent workers in the office of ombudsman, this sample have been taken for each of the three countries (Rwanda, Burundi, and Uganda)

Responding to the problem, the researcher came out with the following proposal the campaign to fight corruption should increase and get decentralized to local levels; there must be continuous sensibilisation of the threats to corruption to the young generation such that in long run corruption would become a dream.

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## CHAPTER ONE

### BACK GROUND OF THE STUDY

#### 1.1: INTRODUCTION

It must be noted that corruption is an old phenomena. For centuries in Africa, individuals have looked for and found ways to unduly make profit of their power or to commit public resources to personal uses. That is, the fundamental attitude known as corruption in the society. Of course, it is understood that the mechanisms vary along the periods and socio-political environments.

According to the transparency international, as observed on June 1<sup>st</sup> 2005 they described corruption as the use of entrusted powers for private gain. Practices that are deemed by the law as corrupt include acts such as bribery, extortion, mismanagement of public funds, stealing by public servants, neglect of duty, causing financial loss to the government, making false claims, embezzlement of funds, abuse of office, to mention but a few. The abuse of office includes nepotism, influence peddling, forgery, false accounting in public institutions and others.

According to the report from the office of ombudsman in Rwanda, it is said that, today, a new category of people is emerging people suddenly fall into paradoxical situation.

If they want to hold their ground in combating corruption of others and casares equal condition, this is seen in government tenders, they have to bride. In other words, they combat corruption by corruption.

However Africa, particularly the central Africa as an immerging part of the world in the process of democratization, is faced to the bad effect of corruption on democracy.

Democracy is the rule of the people by the people and for the people. A democratic administration is one in which the people, all the people, are enabled to express a free choice on all matters affecting them. A simplification of the democratic ethic is that it allows the unrestricted exercise of the freewill of the people determining the cause of their affairs by references to the will of the majority thereof demonstrably expressed. In political terms it implies the right of the people to freely choose their representative, it being recognized that there is no scope, except in the tiniest of the ministates, for direct expression of the will. The freedom to

select representatives is expressed by the conducting of free and fair elections in which all those who can are enabled to express their wish. Accordingly, democracy cannot be said to exist in a situation where the freedom of choice is constrained by whatever factors.

The way corruption is done and understood differs according to the regions or countries, in this work we will see if corruption has an impact on democratic governance particularly in central Africa region (Rwanda, Burundi, Uganda, Tanzania í )

## **1.2. PROBLEM STATEMENT**

If one can look at all corners of the world, Africa and, central Africa in particular, Corruption is still a serious problem. However, still has a stand in combating corruption in private and public institutions.

However, if one can scrutinize the current situation in central Africa, it is more relevant to analyze the existence of corruption. This is based on the level of the following issues; the level of service delivery systems, the level of embezzlement of public funds, increment of bribery in tender issues, favoritism, electoral fraud to mention but a few. Basing on the above corrupt activities, one can prove that corruption is rampant in central Africa.

Some governments have established some preventive and reactive strategies or measures to combat the virus. Preventive strategies include the plan of actions containing the number of commitments designed to prevent corruption by setting for the management of public resources and the use of the public authority for building voluntary compliance and for strengthening systems of supervision and monitoring. Whereas reactive strategies include the plan of actions that contain the number of measures to improve Government's ability to sanctions.

Despite the prevailing strategies that has been established by governments, the populations are still cognizant of the harms that are caused by corruption, the examples can be continuous mismanaging of public funds, different insecurity threats do arise like economic refugees in neighboring countries to look for green pastures, to mention but a few.

### **1.3 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

#### **1.3.1 General objective.**

The general objective of the study was to identify the impact of corruption on democratic governance in central Africa.

#### **1.3.2 Specific objectives**

The specific objectives of the study include the following:

- To identify the forms of corruption affecting democratic governance.
- To identify what is done by governments to prevent and to punish the corruption culprits and through which procedures.
- To give practical recommendations on how to deal with corruption and build institutions with zero tolerance to corruption.

### **1.4 RESEARCH QUESTIONS**

The research question of this work will be as follow: - what is the impact of corruption on democratic governance in central Africa region?

### **1.5. LIMITATION OF THE STUDY**

For this research to be carried out effectively it was limited on both time and space. That is to say, the study focused only on understanding the impact of corruption on democratic governance. The research focused on the local people who are victims of corruption and other official people who deal with this problem. From different category of people, the researcher came out with final recap of information from all these category of people.

### **1.6. SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY**

This work was done, in order to contribute to the exploration of the multiple facets of the problems of democratic governance, particularly as they relate to corruption; and suggest correct strategies geared toward solving. These problems in Africa, particularly in control Africa and I have to conclusion that corruption; and suggest concrete strategies geared toward solving these problems in Africa, particularly in Central Africa.

Personally, after making some analysis about the negative impact of corruption in the world particularly in central Africa and I have come to conclusion that corruption is dangerous more especially on Democratic governance.

Therefore it is my turn to show out the dangers of corruption on democratic governance and finally give recommendation on how to **curb** this virus in the word and particularly in Central Africa.

### **1.7. ORGANISATION STRUCTURE**

This work is organized in the following chapters:

**Chapter one:** discuss the introductory part of the study including, the background of the study, the statement of the problem, the objectives of the study, the research question. The scope / limitation of the study, the significance and lastly the Organization of the study.

**Chapter two:** Reviews the definitions of the concepts and other related key issues in the existing literature. In brief, it presents on overview of the major variables which contribute to the understanding of the discussion pertaining the work.

**The third chapter:** Encompasses the methodology used in data collection and analysis.

**Chapter four:** Includes interpretation of the data obtained in relation to the given objectives.

**The fifth chapter:** includes recommendation and conclusion drowns from the study.

## **CHAPTER TWO:**

### **THE LITERATURE REVIEW**

#### **2.0. INTRODUCTION**

This chapter sets out to review the existing literature under the study. In this section, there is presentation of an over view of the major variables, this help contribute to the understanding of the discussion pertaining the study.

#### **2.1. THE CONCEPT DEFINITIONS**

##### **CORRUPTION**

According to Christopher Korale (Deryke, 2001:79), corruption is in two main folds; first, it is an abuse of an influential position for private gain, secondly; it is an exploitation of a system for securing unmerited advantage.

When we can refer our study to the leadership and power in Africa communities, one can find that the tussle for leadership positions has been a strong feature of governance in African countries. Military takeovers Governments have been frequent and even democratic elections have often turned out to be life and death exercises.

One of the reasons of this is that a leader is usually looked upon as one who should wield power and authority to personal advantage. Politicians compete for public office not so much to serve all the people but to win power and privilege.

This focus on the power and privilege it underplays the importance of the Links between responsibility, authority (that is power) and accountability. The leaders accept a responsibility and are given the authority to make things happen in pursuit of the desire outcome.

The leader must be prepared to be judged on the basis of the quality of that outcome. The misuse of authority will frequently frustrate the objectives of responsibility and almost certainly prevent faithfulness in accountability.

Corrupt acts involve at least one government actor, many corrupt acts also involve non government actors who seek private advantages from governments. Transparency international (2005), the article 4 of the convention defines corruption as the use of the entrusted powers for private gain.

Robert Klitgard et al (2002:2), defines corruption as the misuse of office for private gain. The office is position of trust, where one receives authority in order to act on behalf of an institution, be it private, public, or nonprofit. Corruption means charging an illicit price for a service or using the power of the office to further illicit aims.

## **2.2. The main causes of corruption**

The high level of corruption can be attributed to some of the following factors:

**Political Instability in the past:** many African countries in the past political regimes experiencing a rising trend of political turmoil and human rights abuses. There was a progressive break down of the rule of law, ethics and integrity. This gave rise to the necessity to take bribes to survive due to the decline in real wages and political interference. The loss of the experience officials and non ó compliance to formal procedures made corruption to become central at all levels.

**Poor salaries:** The high incidence of poverty, economic hardships and rising cost of living has lured many public office bearers to seek bribes. As a result of economic crisis, it is difficult for slowly paid workers to continue to follow the official norms and high ideals of honesty.

**Insecure and precarious tenure of office:** Sometimes people in top positions feel insecure and threatened because of job insecurity. They hence demand big bribe Kick back or engage in downright plunder to a mass wealth while they have the opportunity, so that they can live quite comfortably, if they got thrown out of the office.

**Personal Greed / Ambition:** Some public officials have unrestrained desires to get rich quickly by fair or foul means. It is hence immaterial how much salary they are paid or what facility they are given. Such officials sometimes even if they steal millions, even if transferred to other positions, they continue to be corrupt.

**Civil society contribution:** The civil society has not been aggressive in requiring accountability from government officials. This has been as a result of the past political instability and the general population is just at the beginning of enjoying freedom of expression. This has led to the operation of some government officials in a monopoly, which gives out opportunities for carrying out corrupt practices.

*Directorate of ethics and integrity: Office of the president, Kampala, June 2000.*

### **2.3: Types and other forms of corruption**

According to Transparency International, corruption is in two types, that is to say, petty and or grand corruption.

Grand corruption is the type of corruption which is on the high level whereby political decision makers create law and apply them to promote their well being their status and their personal power. Whereas petty corruption which is normally applied by public administrators.

The following forms of corruption can be distinguished:

**Bribery:** The promise, offer or giving of any benefit that improperly affects the actions or decisions of a public official. A bribe may be given to a public servant (direct) or to another person or entity (indirect). A bribe may consist of money, inside information, gifts, entertainment, sexual or other favors, a job, company shares and others. A variation of bribery occurs where a political party or government is offered, promised or given a benefit that improperly affects the decisions or actions by the party or government.

**Embezzlement:** Theft of resources by persons entrusted with authority and control over these valuable resources. Examples include;

- Hospital staff that steals medicines and sells them to private pharmacies
- Government officials charged with food aid distribution steal a portion of food and sell it to other individuals

Embezzlement also includes the conversion of government property and personnel for private use. Other examples include:

- An official who uses a government vehicle for taking her children at school
- An official who uses the government garage to repair his private vehicle
- A government official who rents out his public house.

**Fraud:** A criminal deception involving some form of trick, false pretence for representation to obtain a benefit of gain unjust advantage. Examples are:

- Claiming allowances without having undertaken a trip
- Altering the total on petrol receipts which will be claimed

**Intimidation:** This is where a person threatens the general public, a particular section of the public, a person or a company to change a view point, to do or not to do something. Example can be:

- A company receives a threat that its products will be poisoned unless they follow certain instructions.

**Extortion:** This refers to unlawful and intentionally gaining some advantage, material or immaterial from another person or entity by placing illegitimate pressure in the form of threats of intimidation to force him or her to hand over the benefit. This coercion can be under the threat of physical harm, violence or restraint and may even be a threat that a third party will suffer injury.

The accused must intend his or her words to be interpreted and acts as a threat. He or she must also intend to gain some advantage as a result of the threat while that the threat is illegal. The example includes:

- A person is threatened with arrest unless he or she pays a border official in order to enter the country.

**The abuse of power:** This is where one uses vested authority to improperly benefit or give undue preferential treatment to any group or individual (or using vested authority to discriminate against any group or individual).

Examples include: an elected official responsible for maintaining all the roads in a region assigns the road repair crew to areas where his/her constituents reside and neglects other areas in similar need of road repair.

**Conflict of interest:** Acting or failing to act on a matter where an individual has an interest, or where another person or entity which stands in a relationship with this individual has an interest.

Example: a person considers tenders for a contract and awards the tender to company of which his/her partner is a director.

**Nepotism :**Ensuring that family members are appointed to the public service or that family members receive contracts from state resources, similar to conflict of interest and favoritism.

Example can be:

A head of department appoints his her brother's child to a position even if more suitable candidate applied for the same position.

**Illegal contributions:** When political parties or the government in power receive money in exchange for not interfering with the activities being provided by those making the contribution.

This is closely related to bribery.

Examples include:

- A corporation that makes a generous contribution for less regulation of their industry
- A politicians who extend protection towards enterprises in exchange for contribution to political campaign

**Money laundering:** This refers to washing dirty money by channeling it through legitimate enterprises. That is to say concealing the source, nature, location, ownership and control of illegal receive proceeds ( this can include currency and assets) of what is usually an organized crime by converting them to what appears to be legitimate income.

For example:

- Drug dealers lauder large cash sums from the sale of narcotic
- Transferring properly derived from a criminal offence with the intention of concealing its illegal origin

**Identity theft:** Also, this is known as cloning, associated with organized crime and syndicates. Traditionally, the interception of an identity document on which the photograph is replaced and the ID then used to open accounts, payment of which the original ID holder is responsible for.

#### **2.4. HOW CORRUPTION AFFECT DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE**

Democracy, it has been said, is the rule of the people by the people and for the people. A democratic administration is one in which the people, all the people, are enabled to express a free choice on all matters affecting them. A simplification of the democratic ethic is that it allows the unrestricted exercise of the freewill of the people determining the cause of their affairs by references to the will of the majority thereof demonstrably expressed. In political terms it implies the right of the people to freely choose their representative, it being recognized that there is no scope, except in the tiniest of the ministates, for direct expression of the will. The freedom to select representatives is expressed by the conducting of free and fair elections in which all those who can are enabled to express their wish.

Accordingly, democracy cannot be said to exist in a situation where the freedom of choice is constrained by whatever factors. It is for this reason that corruption has been called the enemy of democracy. **Electoral fraud** is one of the most devastating form of corruption to the establishment of a democracy. Leaders who have been selected through electoral fraud are aware of the illegitimate nature of their rule and will seek to perpetuate it by use of coercive force. They will cling to power opposing any efforts to introduce open government leading to curbing

personal freedom and abusing basic human rights. They will use whatever political or economic power they can muster to perpetuate their rule and to encourage practice that are dishonest, corrupt and unaccountable. An essential attribute of democracy is good governance with goes hand in hand with accountability and transparency. Corruption is the most effective way of obliterating transparency because it thrives in non-transparency. Accountability is anathema to corruption and will have the effect of reducing its incidence. Besides constraining the free exercise of the electoral choice corruption affects the exercise of democracy in a number of other ways. Corruption undermines the growth of a sound economic base which is the hallmark of the substance of the democratic culture. In its various forms corruption results in the malfunctioning of the economic system which in term results such things as increased National debt, failed development projects and increased poverty of the people.

#### **2.4.1 Effect of Corruption on political development and stability**

Corruption affects political development and stability in various ways.

**First**, in countries where corruption is systemic, political repression and suppression, particularly of political opposition and regime critics, becomes the most characteristic feature of political life, and domination and subordination the main political relationship.

**Second**, corruption also affects political stability because it leads to military interventions in the political process, oftentimes resulting in the overthrow of not only authoritarian regimes but also democratically elected governments. It is on record that corruption is the most frequently cited reason for *coup d'état* in Africa.

**Third**, the impairment of political development and stability is directly related to socioeconomic growth and development. National development is handicapped in an atmosphere of political instability and uncertainty, with the result that effective long-term planning is jeopardized (Hope 2000).

## CHAPTER THREE

### METHODOLOGY

#### 3.1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents various methods used in carrying out this study. The methods, which were applied, are discussed in this chapter including the methods of data collection. The chapter further presents data collection, sample selection, data processing methods, and data analysis.

#### 3.2 SURVEY POPULATION

The survey population consisted of civil servants and other categories of population of central African countries who were capable of speaking and talking the fact on the ground as concerning corruption. The research whose respondents aged 18 years and above for it was considered to know everything as far as the nature and impacts of corruption on democratic governance.

#### 3.3 SAMPLE SELECTION

To obtain a sample of ninety, simple random sampling method was used. Sixty nine males were selected because they constituted a large percentage of civil servants and thirty one females. All the respondents were put into consideration and only 90 respondents were randomly selected from the many civil servants from other government ministries to different departments who were considered to be well informed about the issue of corruption in central African society. This was considered a sufficient number to generate and representative data.

Also five directors from different institutions were also randomly selected as part of the sample because they were regarded as the most knowledgeable group about the subject matter. The method used was advantageous in that it enabled a researcher to take little time to select respondents.

Since the respondents were randomly selected, it reduced the bias. The exercise became quicker because all respondents were knowledgeable about the subject matter and could easily respond to the question asked.

### **3.4. DATA COLLECTION**

Data was collected using personal interviewing and it was supplemented by questionnaire. An interview schedule was used which contained questions which were phrased and asked to every respondent in the same manner and order. This method was chosen and used because the majority of the respondents could tend to hide information though they could read and write.

The method also reduced non response rate, since the rapport was established, respondents assured of privacy and confidentiality, an interview would give out all the information asked without fear.

The question were well answered and answers clearly recorded.

### **3.5 ETHICAL ISSUES**

Throughout the process of data collection, different ethical issues were put into consideration. Participation of the respondents was voluntary in that those who were not willing were not forced and no exchange of material gifts could take place for any information. However no names of the respondents should appear or quoted in the report. There was total confidentiality throughout the process of data collection from respondents.

### **3.6 DATA PROCESSING**

This part of the study involved three processes or stage namely data editing , coding and tabulation.

Data editing involved cross checking filled interview schedule to ensure that all answers given by the respondents are correct and complete. Editing was done after every interview session especially in the evening hours. Therefore, data editing and correction were even together throughout the whole exercise.

In relation to coding ,all the answers of all questions, which were asked, were coded and frequencies done by use of coding frames and tallies. For he questions which were open ended, interview schedules were sampled and the response to the question used to determine an appropriate coding frame. This helped in organizing the answers of each response category.

With regards to tabulation, the contents of this process involved determination of the frequency of response for every question tables and tally marks done based on the variables of the study, nature of question asked and their influence on the topic. Table are used to show the frequency of

the response of each particular element on the response category so as to provide good data analysis and presentation.

### **3.7 DATA ANALYSIS**

The data was analyzed manually and this involved usage of percentages to describe the data. The analysis was based on the variables of the study and the hypotheses formulated to find out whether they were refuted or supported. Univariate and vicariated tables have been used by the researcher. Calculated percentages have been used to summarise the data and facilitate the processes of interpretation and presentation of the study findings.

### **3.8 PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED**

The following problems were experienced among the respondents in the first two days of the interview. To overcome this, utmost confidentiality and conducive atmosphere were assured to the respondents with a lot of encouragement to speak through probing. Interviewing respondents was not easy because some of them could decide not to release the information under the coverö I am not sure of thatö

However the problem was solved by working hand in hand with them and at the end, one could provide information at his or her own pace.

The whole exercise was very expensive because everything needed money. That it is to say, transport, materials to use , accommodation plus feeding all these made the whole research exercise very expensive and which money was scarce

## CHAPTER FOUR

### FINDINGS AND INTERPRETATION

#### 4.1. INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the study findings based on 90 respondents. The study aimed at establishing the nature of corruption and its impacts on democratic governance. In this chapter, an attempt is made to see the results of this study and the real facts of the daily life as per corruption is concerned and the differences are noted.

Data presentation and interpretation is to the large extent statistical utilizing percentages. Both bivariate and univariate tables have been used in the presentation of the data.

#### 4.2 CHARECTIRISTICS OF THE RESPONDENTS

Table 1 below shows the characteristic of the respondents who were deemed pertinent to being corrupt based on different factors as earlier mentioned

**Table 1: Characteritics of the respondents**

Basic characteristics	No of respondents	% age
Age		
15-19	12	13,3
20-24	8	9,0
25-29	22	24,4
30-34	18	20,0
35-39	19	21,1

<b>40-44</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3,3</b>
<b>45-49</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3,3</b>
<b>50-54</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2,2</b>
<b>55+</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3,3</b>
<b>sex</b>		
<b>Male</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>77,0</b>
<b>Female</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>23,0</b>
<b>occupation</b>		
<b>Employed</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>18,0</b>
<b>Self employed</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>34,4</b>
<b>Peasants</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10,0</b>
<b>Not employed at all</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>34,4</b>
<b>students</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3,3</b>
<b>Level of education</b>		
<b>No level</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>20,0</b>
<b>Primary</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>30,0</b>
<b>Secondary</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>30,0</b>
<b>Post secondary</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>20,0</b>

**Source: Primary data**

From the above table, most respondents were males and more than half of all respondents were in the age group 25-39 years, the most active and demanding age. Majority of the respondents were Civil servants who have attained higher education. All these characteristics have implications on most people to involve in corrupt acts.

**4.2.1. Behavior of the respondents on corruption**

Following the objective and hypotheses of the study, to obtain a comprehensive view of corrupt behaviors among the civil servants, selected characteristics were cross-tabulated with the level of number the respondents among the civil servants.

**Table 2: Nature of corrupt behaviors revealed by respondents' selected characteristics.**

<b>Selected characteristics</b>	<b>Those that are willing</b>	<b>Those that are unwilling</b>	<b>Total %</b>
<b>Age</b>			
<b>15-19</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>20-24</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>25-29</b>	<b>44,4</b>	<b>55,6</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>30-34</b>	<b>50,2</b>	<b>47,84</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>35-39</b>	<b>57,3</b>	<b>42,7</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>40-44</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>45-49</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>50-54</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>55+</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>sex</b>			
<b>Male</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>100</b>

<b>Female</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>occupation</b>			
<b>Employed</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Self employed</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Peasants</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Not employed at all</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>students</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Level of income</b>			
<b>20000-50000</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>50000-100000</b>	<b>95,4</b>	<b>4,6</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>100000-150000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>150000+</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>No income</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>100</b>

From the table above, it is evident that the majority of respondents in the age group of 25-39 years were very active and it is probably the high level of corrupt behaviors among the younger respondents which was due to the fact that these people still like to enjoy the worldly things unlike the older ones who are already fed up with worldly things and on top of that, they had produced.

According to the findings, most of the respondents above the respondents above the age of 35 had acquired reasonable wealth compared to those below this age who are still aspiring to acquire wealth too.

However, the age group of 50-54 years was the most inactive as per corruption is concerned who most of them could not mind about the worldly things but only making sure that they have what to feed on and sleep. This indicates that, there is a correlation between age and corrupt behaviors. The implication which can be drawn from this analysis is that, age itself is a militating factor against corrupt behavior but rather conditions and characteristics associated with a particular age group probably determine ones corrupt behaviors among the people (civil servants). It is also evident that the majority of female respondents were unwilling to take up corrupt behaviors by reducing their number from 90% to 10% compared to their male counterparts who reduced from 65% to 35%. The percentage of male respondents remained high though it had over all reduced. These findings are contrary to that of Klitghaard (1956).

The above findings confirm that; officials who are involved in corruption are low salary earners.

It would seem that the active nature of the corrupt behaviors of any individual has a bearing on the circumstances and the situation that individual belongs to. Among the major sayings of the respondents were:

*“man eateth where he worked, How cab a society without corrupt behaviors get developed, my salary is too small that I can’t maintain myself and my family, the moment one gets rich, it means he/she has attained heaven, one of these had this to say; I have to become corrupt because even the richest man under the earth planet cannot spare even a single coin and he continued to say that whoever does not steal, can’t get rich”.*

The table above reveals that, there is a relationship between income and corrupt behaviors of some individuals. Accounting to the findings, corrupt behaviors is high among the income group of Rwanda francs 50.000 ó 100 000 and this is indicated by the decrease in percentages in terms of corrupt behaviors of those unwilling to get involved in the act of corruption. This confirms the researchersø earlier stated hypothesis that, òit is limited incentives plus small salaries that is a factor that prompts officials in the public sector to become corruptsö. However, those who were earning income but self employed, some of them confessed and revealed that they were dealing in small scale business like running retail shops, according to investigations and findings.

These people who were running these retail shops, according to investigations and findings, majority of them were more active to take up corrupt behaviors i.e they were willing to pay bribe to the customs and to those people in charge of collection of taxes such that they could increase on the size of their business.

Also, from the table and selected characteristics of the respondents, it is clearly shown that, there is a relationship between level of income, occupation, and marital status in response to corrupt behaviors.

It was found out that those respondents who were employed were fond of having corrupt behaviors than the unemployed (self employed, peasants, students)

According to the findings, a number of employed respondents who were unwilling to do without corrupt behaviors dropped from 60% to 40% which indicated that the majority of them still enjoyed and supported corruption. The respondents who reported that they don't like corrupt behaviors when interviewed, they advanced a number of reasons as to why they have a negative attitude towards corruption. The majority indicated that they would not like to be arrested in case they are caught. Infact one of them had this to say:

*“Sincerely Rwanda is a very small country and has no resources compared to other countries so if this issue of corruption becomes rampant then, the few resources that are available will be shared by very few Rwandans and which will be unfair to other Rwandans, we should share opportunities that are available equally who ever shold be suspected by being corrupt should be arrested.”*

This would indicate a forward move in the fight against corruption. A good number of respondents however, admitted that they don't feel like taking either a bribe or being corrupted in any way. Even some of the respondents observed that there should be a code of conduct as per corruption is concerned that should be followed such that if one falls a victim should be penalized according to it.

Therefore, from the above analysis it is clear that anti-corruption messages has enabled some people to change some aspect of corrupt behaviors. This is indicated by the reduction in percentage as the findings in table in table 2 have clearly shown.

### **4.3. RESPONDENTS' VIEWS ABOUT THE USE OF BRIBES**

Following the specific objectives of the study to identify effects of corruption on democratic governance in central Africa, data was collected regarding the negative and positive effects of corruption.

The findings on the level of the use of bribes among these respondents show the negative and positive signs and can be presented in the table below.

**Table 3 : Respondents view about the ue of bribe before and after Anti corruption Message**

<b>Corruption</b>	<b>Before%</b>	<b>After</b>
<b>Not pay bribe</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>Pay bribe</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>78</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source: primary data**

The findings above show that the majority or respondents (87%) before Anti-corruption messages were offering bribes as a means of getting things while (13%) of the respondents were not offering bribes as a means of getting things. On the other hand, the findings reveal that, after anti-corruption messages even a big proportion of respondent were still offering bribes implying that, after anti-corruption message even a bid proportion of respondents were still offering bribes implying that they were still indulging in corrupt behaviors. The researcher noted that after anti-corruption messages the attitude and response of the civil servants towards corruption improved and became a bit positive.

The researcher further asserted that, there are some respondents who support corrupt behaviors completely due to either their financial stats of just taking it for granted that any human being holding an office should benefit from it.

The respondents who were in favor of corruption i.e. offering bribes, employing their kinsmen, to mention but a few attributed this to the fact that , they did not know that corruption was bad (that is before anti-corruption messages) and they were wondering as to why these anti-corruption messages were being announced day by day. Some respondents were already addicted to corruption and regarded these anti-corruption messages and anti-corruption units (whistle blowers) as a wastage of time and making their transactions less enjoyable and unfruitful.

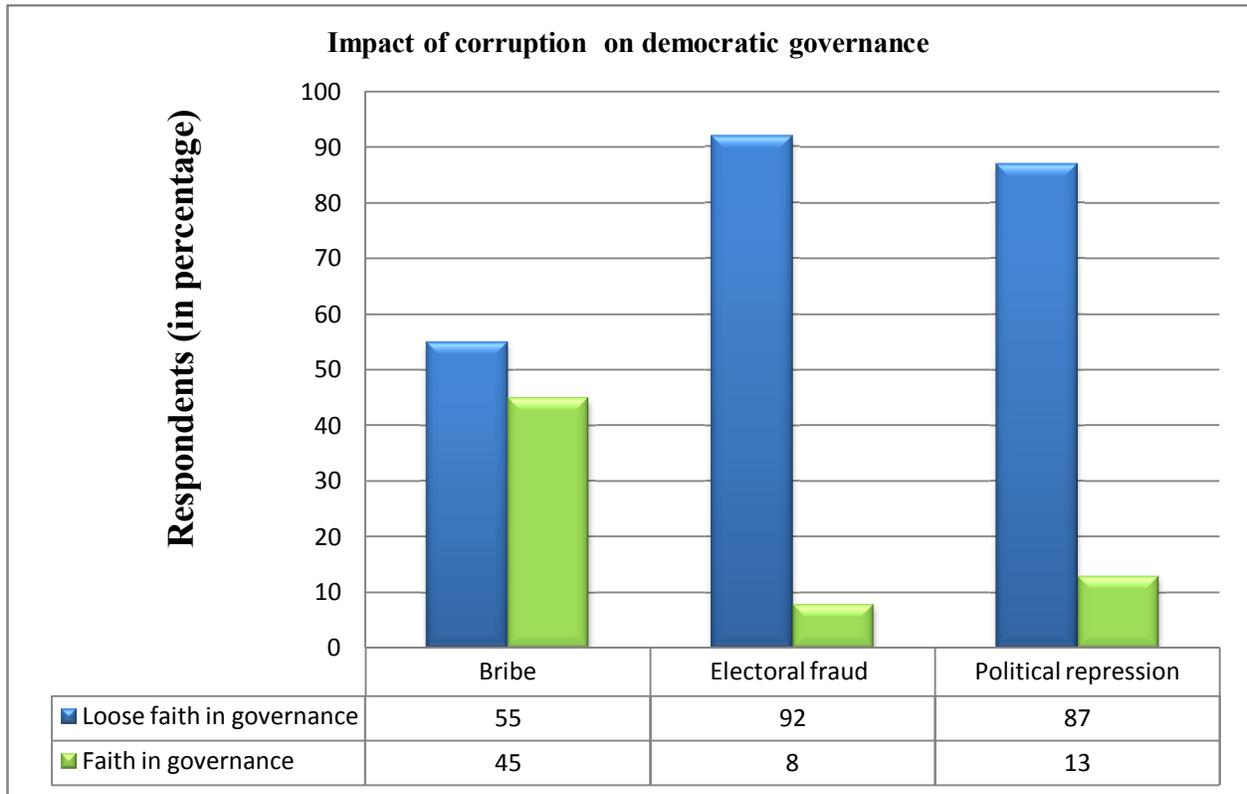
It was revealed that as hypothesized earlier that onesø level of education is positively correlated with corrupt behaviors or has anything to do with corruption. It was found out that there is a relationship between level of education and developing corrupt behaviors.

According to the findings, a big percentage of respondent with secondary and post secondary are fond of corrupt behaviors despite anti-corruption messages they get compared to the respondents who have attended primary and those who have never attended school. Mostly this is because those people who had attended school most of the time occupy big offices and among them, some are big politicians who occupy big offices and among them, some are big politicians who occupy these offices through corrupting the masse. Therefore, they make sure they do corrupt either their bosses or their subjects by giving them employment through parkinsonalisation or giving out material gifts such that they could remain in their offices in case of anything.

This is in line with the findings of Tanzi ( 1995) and Rose Ackerman (1978) who found out that there are two types of corruption one being administrative or bureaucratic corruption which involves the use of public office for pecuniary gains, and secondary being political corruption involving the use of public office by politicians both for pecuniary gains and for purposes of remaining in office.

#### 4.4 RESPONDENTS' VIEWS OF THE EFFECT OF CORRUPTION ON DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE.

Following the objectives of the study, the researcher further had an opportunity to talk to the officials and ordinary people, and data was collected regarding their views on the effect of corruption on democratic governance.



**Figure1, Repondents'view of the impact of corruption on democratic governance**

According to the figure below the research found out the respondent were not aware of the impact of the corruption on democratic governance. The result shown by the figure above gave the image of the understanding of the respondent.

55 percentage of the respondents said that they don't have faith in governance in which bribery (bribe) is rampant and other similar forms of corruption, by this they showed how bribe can impact on their confidence to the governance. Frequently, police officers who have received bribes turn to the innocent parties and have them prosecuted for such offences like giving false information to a person in public service in order to cover their failure to prosecute.

Similarly people lose confidence in the system of justice when they see people bribe their way out of the court after they have committed offences or in civil contests bribe their way into winning cases they should lose.

This in turn creates a despondent populace longing for an opportunity to overthrow the social and political order.

92 and 13 percentage of respondents shown respectively that electoral fraud and political repression have a big impact on the democratic governance as the people are disabled to express their free choice.

Corruption often cited in connection with the exercise of the democratic choice is the unjustified or unfair interference with the exercise of the electoral choice. While free and fair elections do not comprise democracy they are regarded as an essential beginning point for the establishment of a democratic regime. Accordingly, electoral fraud is one of the most devastating forms of corruption to the establishment of a democracy.

The most damaging effect of corruption on democracy is perhaps not to do with the undermining of the economic viability of the state; it is in the distortion of the values of society. A democratic society has certain values which characterize it. It exposes the virtues of hard work, self-application, sacrifice and self-denial. Corruption negates all these values. It spurns these virtues giving respectability to such others as craftiness, usury, arrogance and dishonesty or trickery. It distorts the perception of the people so that society ceases to regard as success any achievements that are not translated into material gains. Public service ceases to have any meaning or purposes unless it can be used to open channels of accumulation of wealth. Society's view of what is right and what is wrong is similarly corrupted so that we begin to praise those who have prospered by evil means and to disparage those who have sacrificed to remain on the straight paths.

## **CHAPTER FIVE**

### **SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATION**

#### **5.1. INTRODUCTION**

This chapter presents the summary of the main findings of the study, recommendations which were drawn by the researcher from the findings of the study, and short coming of the study. It also presents the suggestions for future researchers and other organizations involved in corruption campaign in Africa generally in central Africa.

#### **5.2. SUMMARY**

The study aimed at determining the impact of corruption on democratic governance in Africa particularly in central Africa.

#### **5.3. SHORT COMING OF THE STUDY**

The study had a number of short comings, which could be avoided by future researchers in this field of corruption; its nature and the impact on Democratic governance in Africa.

Due to limitation of finance and time, the researcher based his study on a relatively small sample of 90 respondents. This therefore implies that the conclusion drawn are not representative and do not show an exhaustive clear picture of the entire study population.

Another shortcoming was that because of the stigma attached to the issue in question (corruption), some respondents could manage to persist, some could tend to hide information which did not give a clear picture of corruption as per its nature and impacts on democratic governance in central Africa .

#### **5.4. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR POLICY ACTION IN ORDER TO REDUCE CORRUPTION**

Corruption cannot be effectively attacked in isolation from other problems. It is a symptom of problems at the intersection of the public and the private sectors and needs to be combated through a multi prolonged strategy. A good example can be that one of Uganda where reforms have taken place recently.

That is to say, there should be a creation of a rule based bureaucracy with a pay structure that rewards civil servants and promotion effort to shield the civil service from political patronage and credible financial controls to prevent the arbitrary use of public resources. Here, we focus on the remaining two parts of the strategies. The first is to reduce the opportunities for officials to act completely, by cutting back on their discretionary authority. The second aims at enhancing accountability by strengthening mechanisms of monitoring and punishment using non formal institutions and ordinary citizens.

### **5.5. REDUCING OPPORTUNITIES FOR CORRUPT PRACTICES FOR FUTURE RESEARCH**

In general, any reform that increases the competitiveness of the economy will reduce incentives for corrupt behavior. Thus, policies that lower controls on foreign trade privatize state firms in a way that ensure competition will all support the fight. If the state has no authority to restrict exports or to license businesses, there will be no opportunities to pay bribes in those areas if a subsidiary program is eliminated, any bribe that accompanied it will disappear as well. If price controls are lifted, market prices will reflect scarcity values not the payment of bribes.

Needless to say, deducing official's discretion does not mean elimination regulatory and spending programs with strong justification such program must be reformed not eliminated. Abolishing taxes is not a sensible way to root out corruption among tax collectors; a corrupt civil servant cannot simply be fired.

Several mechanisms can prove to be effective in reducing official discretion adopt administrative reforms that introduce competitive pressures into government.

Open, competitive bidding for public procurement contracts can reduce opportunities for corrupt deals. Creating overlapping power of individual officials. If clients can turn to bribe, no single official has the power to extract a large pay off so long as applicants are eligible for the service and it is the applicants who are seeking something illegal, overlapping enforcement areas can check pay offs as well. For instance, in case the state wants to control illegal businesses, police officers can be given overlapping enforcement areas to reduce opportunities for corruption. Contract for services with a private company possibly a foreign firm with no close ties to the country.

Simpler, non discretionary tax, spending and regulatory laws can limit opportunities for corruption. Sometimes a certain risk of corruption is tolerated because the benefits of discretionary approach to program administration exceed the costs of corruption. But even the transparency and publicity can help blunt the incentive to be corrupt. Police officers for example must have discretionary authority to make law enforcement decisions on the spot, but public complaints will often restrain any abuse.

- Introduce market schemes that limits the discretion of regulators

This approach also has that virtue of producing an economically efficient allocation of resources. The sale for water and import-export licenses can improve the efficiency of government operation while limiting corruption.

#### **5.5.1. Strengthening Mechanisms for Monitoring and punishment**

Independent watch-dog institutions that are part of the government structure can also curb corruption. There are some countries that have experienced with various approaches which can be applied in Central Africa as well.

Some countries have independent anti-corruption commissions or inspector general that can investigate allegations and bring cases to trial. If these commissions can be introduced and respected fully, the rate corruption can be curbed down.

Ombudsmen hear citizen complaints and can help increase the accountability of government agencies. Under the ombudsman Act of 1991, South Africa has established a public protector to investigate alleged improprieties (malfeasance, corruption, human right abuses) by public officials and to prepare reports, which are usually made public. The office can not initiate legal actions but will refer cases to offices that can. Watch-dog organization should focus not only in those who receive bribes but also on those who pay them. It takes two to tango, and penalties should be equally severe on both sides- usually a multiple of the bribes received or paid. Penalties for bribe payers should also include the prospect of being barred from contracting with the government for a period of years.

A useful survey, would also tell the nationals how much follow up is done when suspect corrupt deals are exposed. If for example, government probes a corporation and the relevant government removes its chief executive, does the matter just end there? Does that not leave parliament look like a group indulging in witch-hunting? Do the relevant organs follow up the matter with the same zeal as parliament after honorable members have felled one main?

The kind of report which would not send central African countries to sleep would include statistics on how much money was stolen from different departments, and how much was recovered if any. The useful report would then spell the reason why so much or so little could not be recovered. Is it because of investigative incapacity or because the principal subject was well connected.

If those who fund surveys are so much interested in perception, then locally they should fund a survey to establish which public officials are perceived as most corrupt. For example, a survey conducted among Kigali's Taxi drivers would tell which traffic police officer is perceived as the most corrupt, also, a survey conducted among senior civil servants and big business men would tell which minister is perceived as most corrupt and which one is thought to be the cleanest. That is another list that the public would read without dozing off half way down.

The ministers and senior civil servants should also be surveyed to determine which journalist is perceived as the most corrupt. It would certainly be interesting to read which reporters and editors are believed to be motivated by bribes to kill news rather than publish it.

And it is not only public officials are corrupt. Private business people might as well be regarded as the origin of corruption. A survey among public officials, police and tax officers should produce a list of the business people who are perceived as the most corrupt ó those who prefer to talk with money rather than with reason.

## **5.6. SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE RESEARCH**

The study due to the limitation already discussed, failed to offer exhaustive coverage of the topic under study. The researcher thought that the following suggestions would serve as an important role to future researchers and any other organization involved in corrupt related activities. In this very topic of the nature and the impact of corruption to the Rwandan public sector, thus , acting as a guideline for future research.

- Future researchers are encouraged to study the influence of other factors as concerning nature and impact of corruption on democratic governance by using other variables such as whistle blowers(anti-corruption units) relationship with people who are fond of corruption.
- Future researchers should endeavor to increase on the sample size in order to enrich and make their studies more representative.
- Future researchers should put into consideration the shortcomings cited in sub section 5.3 and if possible endeavor to provide suit solutions to them before they undertake their studies.

## **5.7. CONCLUSION**

In conclusion therefore the findings reveal that there was a change towards corrupt behaviors among the majority civil servants.

It also reveals that the behavioral change of civil servants was being influenced by beaucratic factors which resulted into instances of corrupt behaviors. Imperative that attempts should be made to create a clean public service, discourage corrupt thinking and promote and foster behavioral change civil servants to adopt good thinking concerning or corruption or corrupt behavior.

I would implore all those dedicated to the establishment and fostering of democratic institutions and culture in our countries to rededicate themselves to the eradication of corruption from our midst. It is not an easy task. It is, however, achievable provided we persistently maintain our attack on unaccountability, greed and selfishness. We must do so using all instruments at our disposal. The foremost of these instruments is the media. The criminal justices system is another as is also the legislature. We must consistently insist on the law being allowed to take its course and must be quick to point out when it has not. We must use the media to bring to public scrutiny any activity which stinks of corruption. We must fully support any measures to bring to book those who have abused their officers and caused losses to government revenue.

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## APPENDIX

### COVERING LETTER AND QUESTIONNAIRE

I am conference participant on DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE: CHALLENGES IN AFRICA AND ASIA carrying out a study on the impact of corruption on democratic governance in Africa. A case of Central Africa.

The study is done in order to contribute to the exploration of the multiple facets of the problems of democratic governance, particularly as they relate to corruption, and suggest concrete strategies feared toward solving these problems in Africa, particularly in Central Africa.

The information you give will contribute to the understanding of the problems caused by corruption and how they affect the democratic governance, and will help to suggest concrete strategies.

Your inclusion in this study does not defect anything personally known about you. However your answers are quite indispensable in the study, analysis, conclusions, as well as benefits entirely rest on your cooperation.

The information gathered in this study will be treated strictly confidential, so please feel free to answer the question frankly. All answers are important to be confident that whatever information you give will be treated accordingly to your judgment.

Thank you

UMUTONIWABO Robert

**TOPIC: THE IMPACT OF CORRUPTION ON DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE**

**INTERVIEW SCHEDULE FOR RESPONDENTS**

**SECTION A:**

Background information

	Under 21	<input type="text"/>	
1. Age of the respondent	: 21- 25	<input type="text"/>	
		<input type="text"/>	
	26-30	<input type="text"/>	
	31-35		
	36-40	<input type="text"/>	
		<input type="text"/>	
	41-45	<input type="text"/>	
	46-50		
	51 and over	<input type="text"/>	
2. Sex of the respondent	a) Female	<input type="text"/>	
	b) Male	<input type="text"/>	
3. Marital status	a) single	<input type="text"/>	married <input type="text"/>
	b) Widow/er	<input type="text"/>	divorced <input type="text"/>
4. Religion	a) Non religion	<input type="text"/>	b) Catholic <input type="text"/>
	c) Protestant	<input type="text"/>	d) maslem <input type="text"/>

e) Other (specify) í í í í í í í í í í .

5. Level of education
- a) No Level
  - b) Primary
  - c) Secondary
  - d) Tertiary

6. What is your occupation í í í í í í í í í í í í í í í í

7. How much do you earn per month

- (a) 2.000-50.000
- (b) 50.000 - 100.000
- (c) 100.000-150.000
- (d) 150.000-200.000
- (e) 250.000-300.000
- (f) over 300.000

8. It is enough as per your qualification?.....í í ..

**SECTION B: ISSUE ABOUT CORRUPTION**

9. Is true there is corruption in your country (Rwanda / Burundi/Uganda).....í í ..

í í

10. When did you come to know about it?.....

11. Can you sight two areas where corruption is rampant in your country í í í í í ..

a) í .

b) í

12. If others mention one í ..



**SECTION C: RESONDENTS ATTITUDE TOWARDS CORRUPTION**

21. Is corruption Good or bad?

a) Good

b) Bad

22. Would you please show some reasons why corruption is good or bad?

í ..

í ..

23. Can the Level of one job in the office influence on official to be corrupt.

a) Yesí .

b) Noní í

24. If yes, can you please show reasons?.....

í .

25. If not, for what reasoní í

26. Do you feel there can be any measures to curb corruption

a) yesí .

b) Noní í

27. If yes or non explainí ..

. í ..



í ..

í í

34. Basing on question n° 33, what is the position of country as per corruption is concerned

a) democratic  b) undemocratic

c) Explain

35. If is a democratic one does it mean there is corruption

í ..

í í

36. How do corruption impact on democratic governance to your opinion

í ..

37. What possible measures do you think can reduce corruption?

í ..

í í

39. Are there some measures established by the government to prevent and punish corruption? If

these measures exist, are they effective?

í ..

í í

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION AND POSITIVE RESPONSE**