**CHALLENGES AND GOOD PRACTICES IN THE PREVENTIN OF CORRUPTON AND THE IMPACT OF CORRUPTION ON THE ENJOYMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE CONTEXT OF THE COVID 19 PANDEMIC**

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In Africa, where I come from, corruption is a menace that has eaten deep into every fabric of the society and its negative impact only became more glaring with the Covid 19 Pandemic. Corruption undermines the rule of law, it increases poverty, retards investment and employment opportunities. It reduces the effectiveness of government intervention programs with the diversion of government funds from socially valuable projects such as education and health.

The Covid 19 pandemic saw many poor persons become poorer in that most persons in the lower class were daily income earners whose means of livelihood were completely lost due to lockdown orders around the world. These large population of vulnerable people depended heavily on interventions from government, international organizations and philanthropy to meet their feeding, health and other social needs.

Given the urgency of such interventions, there were high corruption risks with cases of diversion, hoarding and stealing of donated supplies. This meant that many persons who should take benefit of these relief materials were denied of them. As a result, there were deaths, cases of increased hunger, heightened poverty and increased crime, a clear breach of their fundamental human rights. In one scenario in Nigeria, there were allegations of public officials hoarding palliative materials meant for the public such that, the people were seen invading and looting warehouses where relief materials were stored[[1]](#footnote-1). There is no gainsaying that corruption erodes trust in government and undermines the social contract.

Whilst there are several proposition or good practices that can prevent corruption, certain practices are foundational and fundamental.

1. Transparency and open governance backed by advanced technology in professional accountability. One that captures, analyses and shares data in a manner that instills confidence and trust.
2. Setting Rules and Regulations and ensuring compliance with imposition of penalties for breach.
3. Create modalities that give citizens (particularly the youths) relevant tools and platforms to engage and participate in their governments. The youths are creative and innovative and are able to identify priorities,  problems and find solutions.

In closing, a major challenge to fighting corruption in many African countries is centered on the political will of existing governments to do the needful by putting up policies, standards, and institutions to eliminate corruptions. Beyond putting these in place, governments must be committed to implementation, and enforcement of these mechanism to ensure that the desired result is attained.

1. https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-54695568 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)