

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF PREVENTIVE MEASURES

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Scope of the Presentation

1.0 Introduction

Corruption, widely defined as the 'misuse of public authority for private gain' affects livelihoods negatively by depleting national wealth and entrenching poverty. The severity of this effect and its tendencies vary from one country to another although it is ubiquitous. Therefore, the fight against corruption requires collective effort.

2.0 Favorable conditions for Reporting

- Freedom of Expression
- Access to information
- Whistle Blower Protection
- Government's receptiveness
- Free Media
- Incentives for good behavior
- Civic education

3.0 Factors that deter Reporting

- Culture of impunity
- Double Standards
- Fear and Intimidation
- Reprisals
- Insulation to public opinion

4.0 A Glance at the Key Actors

- Civil Society Organizations
- Media
- General Public
- Insiders or Whistle Blowers
- Private Sector

5.0 Key Challenges faced by Actors

CSO's—funding, training, environment

Media—business climate, population literacy level, intimidation, co-opting

General public—poverty, ignorance, political affiliation, intimidation, illiteracy, lopsided values

Whistle blowers—job insecurity, threats, co-option, poverty

Private Sector—competition, profit, co-option, threats

Anti-corruption Agencies—political will, job insecurity, public will, funding and technical knowledge

6.0 The Way forward

- Sign up and ratify international instruments
- Enact access to information legislation
- Promote transparency and accountability
- Protect Freedom of expression
- Provide civic education
- Enact whistle blower protection legislation
- Strengthen prosecution
- Reward good behavior/find other incentives to stimulate reporting

Biography of Presenter

I am G. Jasper Cumme III, Director of the Center for Transparency and Accountability in Liberia. CENTAL is a research-based anti-corruption advocacy organization that subscribes to uplifting the twin tenets of transparency and accountability, and also a local contact group for Transparency International, as well as a member of the Publish What You Pay International Coalition. I am also the Executive Secretary of the National Coalition of Civil Society Organization in Liberia (NACSSOL).