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Abstract

The essence of government is public service, as delivered and rendered by public servants. The list of potential arenas for government action is large. Today nearly everyone agrees that government needs to be involved in basic education, legal frameworks, infrastructure, and some elements of social safety net, and in regulating competition, banks and environmental impacts. Therefore, the activities of public servants account for most part of the work of government and have extensive influence over the lives of the people.

In view of the public servant's role and influence, they are expected to be persons of high moral character and integrity. Furthermore, the public servant is expected to be law-abiding and committed person who shows proper care for public assets, behaves ethically and discharges his/her duties and responsibility efficiently and effectively with decency and dignity.

Therefore, in developing a national integrity system policy for public servants, the strategy to be employed will take into account all the expectations highlighted above. Such a strategy will cover identified aspects and pillars of integrity. The aim of which to set out standards of behaviour and conduct by public servants. This will in form how well a country will use available resources and take advantage of new opportunities.

In this regard, a major determining factor of how well a country will do is the quality of the public institutions, in particular, which in turn is related to how decisions get made and in whose interest. Such integrity system is aimed at guiding, regulating and ensuring compliance with the norms and behaviours required of a public servant.

Biography of Presenter

Olabisi A. Dare is a Career Diplomat, International Civil Servant, and an International Lawyer. Has worked both at the national level and at the international level, including on the multilateral plane. Currently involved in post conflict recovery work in the area of institutional support, in a country just emerging from conflict.