

# BLACK MONDAY

*Citizen Action Against theft of our money without SHAME!*

## Editorial

### Why Integrity Matters!

Integrity is the cornerstone of good governance. Fostering integrity and preventing corruption in the public sector is essential in maintaining trust in government. 'Integrity' refers to the application of values, principles and norms in the daily operations of public sector organizations. Governments are under growing pressure from the public to use information, resources and authority for intended purposes.

Achieving a culture of integrity requires coherent efforts to update standards, provide guidance, and monitor with enforcement. In 2013, Civil Society Organizations agreed that the Black Monday Campaign will now be expanded to promote integrity by identifying public officials who are serving with honesty, integrity and diligence. We hope that by celebrating, affirming and recognizing these individuals, we shall contribute to the ultimate objective of fighting corruption by building integrity in public office.

Our theory of change is that by highlighting corruption and providing pathways for a brighter future, we can support citizens to be actively engaged in shaping the future of their country. We hope to use the experiences of this year to assess pro-integrity efforts and their impact on corruption in order to help policy makers to improve their policies, adopt good practices and implement sound interventions.

In this month's edition of the Black Monday Newsletter, we are focusing on ongoing government and civil society initiatives to improve integrity. The lead article attempts to answer the question as to why integrity died in our country and what can be done to rebuild this value. We also share experiences of community conversations on integrity, a young person's perspective on integrity and other articles that speak to this very important topic.

**Richard Ssewakiryanga**  
Executive Director Uganda National NGO Forum

## District Integrity Promotion Forums need support - A CSO Perspective

| By Lillian Zawedde, ACCU



*Citizens of the Buganda region voting on the characteristics that define Integrity during the Buganda Region Integrity Campaign*

In a bid to strengthen its function of coordinating national efforts against corruption and recognizing the need to involve all the stakeholders, the Directorate of Ethics and Integrity (DEI) has established the District Integrity Promotion Forums (DIPFs). In partnership with the Local Governments, they improve coordination of anti-corruption efforts, effective leadership, accountability, and good governance at district level.

56 Forums have been established across the country chaired by the Resident District Commissioner (RDC). In the districts where DIPFs have been fully established, they have brought about consciousness among district leaders and technocrats to effectively utilize resources and provide as much information as possible to citizens.

Despite this good initiative, there is no clear strategy to guide the effective implementation and sustainability of these forums. Lack of funding sometimes hinders the forums from being organised on a quarterly basis.

ACCU's experience in supporting these forums clearly highlights that many district leaders do not allocate adequate budget allocations to ensure that the forums gets integrated in the routine district business processes.

The sustainability of the DIPFs depends on personalities especially RDCs and their commitment to account and improve service delivery. The transfer and appointment of RDCs with no adequate orientation on their roles and responsibilities is another challenge that should be addressed by carrying out sensitization

and training workshops to enhance their capacity.

Going forward, the Directorate of Ethics and Integrity whose mandate is to set standards for rebuilding and promotion of ethics and integrity in society needs to ensure that these forums are functional and promoted across the country.

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**NOT FOR SALE**



# Integrity is a Golden Asset

| Samuel A. Bakutana

Attention! No single virtue has received as much positive publicity and limited practice as integrity! When approached to contribute an article, I remembered a man who was asked what his country's biggest problem was – ignorance or apathy. He replied, "I don't know and I don't care." He represented both ignorance and lack of concern! This attitude wells within most of us: we sit back and hope things get better without our contribution. As I often say, "If it is going to work out, you have to work it out," because nothing changes if nothing changes.

Most people who want change often blame others, neglecting the core of transformation – the *inner* person in every person! Faith leaders tell us to "repent" – a word that comes from the Greek "metanoia" which means "change of attitudes, beliefs, and direction." Our nation suffers from the population's refusal to change attitudes, beliefs, and direction – all essential for development. We all harbour this in different degrees. Heads are filled with information but our hearts lack values and principles upon which developed nations are built. Greatest of these is integrity – the qual-

ity of being honest and morally upright.

Integrity is not incomprehensible. It is doing in both public and private spheres what is right irrespective of the benefit of compromise, the personal cost involved, and what others are doing. Richard Dresselhouse said, "It's our conduct when no one is looking that exposes clearly the real quality of our character." A state founded on unquestionable character soars high. In "The Economics of Integrity," Anna Bernasek says, "Our stock of integrity is our most valuable economic asset. When an individual cuts corners or breaks rules for personal reward, the entire system is compromised: trust unravels, firms collapse, and markets break down... Integrity is the invisible infrastructure of the economy." This means that lack of integrity in my personal life affects the whole country's economy. Integrity crisis anywhere is integrity crisis everywhere. Integrity is an invisible infrastructure that we need for development.

Therefore, let citizens courageously hold government accountable, exer-

cise power to select their leaders, and choose systems of governance. Governments should also challenge citizens to live a life of honesty, godliness, and authentic love for the nation. The key here is walking the talk. Leaders know the way, go the way, and show the way. Albert Schweitzer said, "Example is not the main thing in influencing others; it is the only thing." Collectively, citizens and their governments should:

- Work together to fight corruption and cultivate integrity.
- Willingly commit to honesty, transparency, and positive change.
- Task whoever evades responsibility to either do better or let others take the lead.
- Commit to give honest, excellent, and professional service to the nation regardless of personal benefits.

Today, we can start to live differently, aware that while we make a living through what we *get*, we make a life through what we *give*. Be among men and women who give service with integrity. For years now, I have willingly been one of them (so help me God) because *integrity begins with me*.



Undoubtedly, the heart of a nation's development is the matter of its citizens' heart. The strength of our morals will make the difference - both in public and private dealings. So, are you *in* or *out*? No middle ground. You cannot be a little pregnant: you are either pregnant or not. However difficult it may be, stand for integrity. After all, as Martin Luther King, Jr. said, "The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort, but where he stands in times of challenge and controversy."

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## Promoting Integrity must be part and parcel of anti-corruption efforts

| By Alfred Nuamanya

At the beginning of this year, the Black Monday Movement, still focusing on fighting corruption, launched the integrity initiative to promote integrity in the Ugandan Society. The integrity initiative underscores the fact that much as we must shun and condemn the corrupt, we should not neglect celebrating and profiling the few Ugandans who have led decent and honest lives.

Integrity is about having a single life. The things we do in public should be similar with what we do in our private lives. Someone buys an old personal car and drives it for ten years but is given a brand new government car and it is worn out in three years! How do you reconcile the two? Is that integrity? So integrity is really having standard values that guide one's life both in private and public. It is as basic as that.

### So what went wrong?

There are many reasons which can be advanced from a socio economic and political angle. There was this unplanned transition from a largely state controlled economy to a free market economy which seemed to happen overnight and came with consequences. There was a time in this country when somebody would go to University, assured of a well paying job, a decent house and later a generous

pension at the end of his/her service. Government was in charge of social service delivery and suddenly this ceased existing. We should not forget that even in the most advanced free market economies the state provides certain basic services such as state run health care and unemployment benefits where applicable. In our case there were no such systems and people were left to fend for themselves.

However all is not lost and I am very optimistic. There are still good people out there but we lack a robust system to identify and utilize them. We must continue to work towards building institutions that work and have trust of the people. For example I should cast my vote, go home and wait to hear the results announced because I am sure it won't be tampered with by the Electoral Commission. I should read an advert for a job and apply with confidence that it will go to the best candidate.

Lastly I'll comment on the Black Monday Movement and how it relates to this integrity campaign and under the leadership of Uganda National NGO Forum, Civil Society Organizations are rolling out an integrity initiative across the country with our district partners.

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## Icons of integrity! Faming the good leaders

| By Soren Bjerregaard

In August 2014, Action Aid Uganda and 15 CSOs ran the second leg of the anti-corruption caravan in Eastern Uganda under the theme: **Shame the Corrupt. Fame good leaders!**

The caravan raised public understanding about the scourge of corruption and mobilized citizens for collective anti-corruption work. It also documented cases of corruption across the country and exposed them to media and Government Institutions. However the way forward is not shaming alone. By helping communities identify and promote icons of integrity, the anti-corruption caravan also showed a path forward, illuminated of Icons of Integrity that shuns away the dark shadows of corruption.

Promoting integrity is a crucial part of the fight against corruption. With the Icons, the caravan strengthens the ongoing civil society led efforts against corruption by pushing forward the countrywide momentum where we reject corruption and build a society on honesty and truthfulness. It is a long haul but failure to get there is not an option.

### Icons in the districts

The caravan traversed the districts of Kotido, Abim, Amuria, Soroti, Katakwi,

Kumi, Bukedea, Mbale, Kapchorwa, Tororo, Namutumba and Iganga.

Communities eagerly engaged in formulating the criteria for becoming an icon of integrity and ended up with the following guidelines:

- An individual that goes beyond itself and walks an extra mile to make sure people get quality service.
- One who follows up fault and wants it corrected or addressed.
- Protects public resources and cares about the quality it delivers.
- They are role models in the community and everyone appreciates their contribution.
- They are consulted when communities need help to sort out issues.
- They can be identified as key leaders with inspiration.
- They are respected in all circles and their opinions and decisions matter.
- They stand their ground on injustice and will fight to the end until justice is delivered.

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# “The fight for integrity is a war we all must join”

*Patricia Achan Okiria is the acting Director Legal Services at the Directorate of Ethics and Integrity in the Ministry of Ethics and Integrity. She tells Black Monday why the fight for integrity is a war we all must join*

## What does the directorate of ethics do?

The ethics and integrity directorate is a coordinator for anti corruption work in the country. Our mandate is to lead in rebuilding ethics and integrity, so our core function rotates around promoting ethical values and propelling good governance. That is why we developed the National Ethical Values Policy, we also spearhead the development of the anti corruption legal framework, policies and strategies.

## Are you on ground? We don't seem to feel your impact down there...

We are on ground, very much so. Much as we look few, we work with the Inter Agency Forum (IAF) which brings together government agencies working around anti-corruption and we also have a strategic partnership with civil society organizations. We are also involved with the District Integrity Promotion Forums which work with Resident District Commissioners as the

supervisors and Chief Administrative Officers and indeed the entire district leadership. So far 48 districts have been covered but we strive to extend our reach. The youth are our major focus; and the Cabinet directed us to look into gambling among the youth and its related ethical concerns and we have written a position paper on this to be presented by the minister of ethics and integrity to cabinet soon.

## Have you registered any tangible results so far?

A lot has been done, the legal department has developed the citizen handbook which breaks down the citizens' role in the fight against corruption, and we also have the National Anti Corruption Strategy to implement zero tolerance to corruption. People are now proactive, they know they need to be involved in planning so they know what is going on so they don't sit back and speculate but demand for accountability from an informed point of view. This civic consciousness is very important.

## Does this civic consciousness have a top to bottom outlook? Do the so called 'big boys' for instance appreciate your ethical values gospel?

These programs start from the top because some things we do originate from Cabinet, they discuss, agree and forward to Parliament which then passes into law. So the big boys as you call them can't claim to be ignorant of these programs geared towards ethical values.

## What and where is the place of CSOs in these efforts by the directorate?

CSOs are represented in the district integrity forums because we have to fight corruption with a wholistic approach; we have a well structured anti corruption partnership program that brings together CSOs.

## Despite all these efforts, year in year out we witness gross abuse of office which touches the core of integrity. Are we fighting a losing battle?



*Patricia Achan Okiria, Director Legal Services at the Directorate of Ethics and Integrity in the Ministry of Ethics and Integrity.*

No, it is not a losing battle because if you see things already done, the *wanainchi* are aware of their rights and role, they need to be more equipped with information. We can't say we have done enough; we have to complement each other to win this war.

# We are not in an integrity crisis...

*Jossy Jules Rwereza is the Director Education and Prevention of Corruption Inspectorate of Government who argues that Uganda is not in an integrity crisis because of the increasing civic conscience that sees no unethical behavior go unnoticed.*

## Does promotion of integrity fall under the mandate of the Inspectorate of Government (IG)?

Oh yes, if you read article 225 of the constitution, it spells out our functions and the aggregate of all those functions is building integrity. Aspects like principles of natural justice, fairness, efficiency and good governance have integrity as the end product.

## Where is your focus now?

As far as building integrity is concerned, we have set up integrity clubs in Universities to nurture young people to grow up with a clear understanding of a value chain system. We would love to go down to primary and secondary schools but we are faced with some challenges.

## What is the reception like from these youth you have reached out to?

From my experience and interactions, the young people I meet are products of these clubs as they still wear club badges, hold seminars and debates on integrity, they are enthusiastic about integrity and that is a positive development.

## Do you also reach out to the older generation?

Oh yes, we sensitize them too and people are enthusiastic, by the way no one wants to be seen as corrupt, everyone values integrity. The problem is implementing those values. People are concerned about this corruption question. We need to build momentum so that people do not just sing the song of integrity but live by it.

## How would you assess our integrity levels as a nation?

I think it is more to do with the image. There are many people in private and public life with integrity but often time one person soils the image of the country.

## In other words we are not in an integrity crisis? If you would describe the erosion of integrity using the parallel of a patient, at what stage is this patient?

We are not at the level of patients, if you have headache you are not a patient yet. We have development going on in the country. The exposure of corruption is high; it shows the situation is very bad whereas it is not. No scandal goes on unreported so because of these exposes we imagine the picture is terrible but I don't think it is so.

## Do CSOs have a place in your efforts towards restoring integrity in public life and offices?

We work with several NGOs including Action Aid, Anti Corruption Coalition Uganda, Uganda Debt Network, Uganda National NGO Forum and a multitude of others.

## What is the biggest challenge so far?

Other than the resource constraints, it is about ensuring everyone gets to understand you and takes up what you are saying by living a life of integrity. People see the value of integrity but how to ensure they commit themselves is the challenge that selflessness is lacking. It is not embedded in our culture yet. The youth find themselves entangled in a middle age crisis, trying to get rich quick. We need efforts to build a value chain system right from the home.

## Where is the weakest link at the moment?

It is actual implementation of these policies, we have the finest policies but we are poor at action but even then the IG cannot be everywhere. That is why my passionate appeal to Black Monday readers and other Ugandans is not to agonize but organize.

## Lastly as we organize for elections in 2016, commercialization of politics seems to be at its peak. The



*Jossy Jules Rwereza, Director Education and Prevention of Corruption Inspectorate of Government*

## electoral process has been reduced to a shopkeeper-buyer relationship. Is this something the IG is bothered about?

It is sad but the Electoral Commission should put in place mechanisms that avert the trend that is within their jurisdiction.



# SUMMARY OF CORRUPTION SCANDALS TO LOOK BACK AT



## What must we do to get our money back?

Wear only black clothes every Monday to show you are tired of theft.

Demand political action from the President

Isolate every thief implicated in a theft scandal. Don't invite them to your burials, weddings.

Do not buy goods or services from businesses owned by thieves. Support Ugandans working honestly to make a living.

Until all the thieves have returned our money.

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