

Hoseah, Edward & Ngware, Suleiman. S. (Eds). *Corruption and Struggle for Development in Tanzania* (Dar es Salaam: Dar es Salaam University Press, 2010, pp. 68)

*Reviewed by Consolata R. Sulley **

Corruption is one of the critical challenges that face nation-states particularly in developing countries. It hinders them from advancing in socio-economic, political and cultural aspects. Thus, understanding its nature, form, causes, impact and ways of dealing with it becomes not only significant but also categorical. In their edited book "*Corruption and Struggle for Development in Tanzania*" Edward Hoseah and Suleiman S. Ngware attempt an analysis of corruption using the experience of Tanzania. The book discusses the problem of corruption in various institutions such as Local Government Authorities (LGAs), traffic police section, and journalism. The general observation put forward in the book is that corruption in Tanzania is systemic and the struggle against it is challenging.

The book is organised into six chapters. Chapter one is an introduction which gives the overview of corruption in the country. Chapter two defines and describes corruption. The chapter also points out measures that the government has taken to reduce poverty thereby establishing the link between poverty and corruption. Chapter three describes corruption in LGAs. The main argument of the chapter is that there exists corruption of various forms in these authorities and that people engage in corruption because of among other things lack of a living wage and incentives for workers in LGAs and existing loopholes in the legal and regulatory frameworks that eventually make anti-corruption enforcement almost impossible (p. 8). Chapter four is devoted to investigative journalism and its importance to curbing corruption. The chapter claims that there is "lack of good corporate governance in the mass media industry as evidenced by the absence of checks and balances in the organisational set-up and their day-to-day management..."(p. 9). Chapter five deals with corruption in the police sector particularly the traffic police section. The last chapter concludes the

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book by reemphasising its main findings and pointing out challenges that the Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB) face towards executing its responsibilities.

It should be commended that the subject dealt with in this book is crucial and deserves efforts put forward by the authors. However, despite the relevance and criticality of the issue in this book, its organisation, methodology, and evidence leave a lot to be desired. Organisationally, the chapters of the book are not well harmonised to avoid information duplication. Examples of this problem are mostly seen in chapters one and two by Suleiman Ngware: "*Introduction: Overview of Corruption in Tanzania*" and "*Corruption Described and Defined*" respectively. These chapters are almost the same in terms of their objectives and contents. For example, chapter one paragraph two (p.3) is the very same paragraph in chapter two paragraph three (p.18). Duplications of this nature are numerous in the book and more particularly in these two chapters. One could argue that repetitions may be a result of these chapters being written by the same author. But this is not convincing enough since the author could organise and harmonise his thoughts better. The related problem to these two chapters and others in the book is the copy editing. It appears that this book was not thoroughly copy edited. This has resulted into the difficulty in terms of its readability.

The second problem concerns the writing style particularly with the way citations have been done in the book. Both the in-text citations and bibliography are problematic. Authors have put long lists of literature at the end of their chapters while none or only a few are cited within their texts. A notable example is the chapter by Ngware on "*Corruption Described and Defined*" where the author has six pages of reference list with a total of seventy works. Yet, only about fifteen of them are found in the main text. Moreover, from the few noticeable in-text citations, most of them are not listed in the seventy references such as Hope 1997, Knack and Keefer 1995, Johns 1998 to list a few. Interestingly, only one out of nine references of the author's previous works was cited in his text. To show that this was not by mistake, his chapter on "*Corruption in Local Government Authorities*" lists thirty three references at the end and only two i.e. Warioba 1996 and Ngware 2004 (see p. 31) could be seen in the text. Worse still, while this chapter has four and half pages, its reference list has two and a half pages. Other chapters of the book have the same problem. For example, Hoseah and Ngware in their "*Conclusion and the Challenges Ahead*" have cited some sources in the text while the same have not been listed in their references. To be sure, in their

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chapter, the authors refer to a presidential speech published in 2009 and the same has not been listed in the bibliography (p. 66-7). In his chapter, Peter T. Mosha lists more than fifty references in the bibliography but only two could be noted in his text. Besides, most listed references are the same in every chapter of this book which is a good sign of cut and paste.

The third problem relates to the methodology and evidence. Right from its preface, the book states "Chapters in this book are a result of 'empirical studies' done in specific sectors of Local Government, journalism and petty corruption within the traffic police (p. viii)." Any research that claims to be empirical must have clear methods and evidence to support its findings. Despite the mention of the methodology used (in chapter four) the rest of the book does not mention methods used to arrive to its conclusions. This brings us to the problem of evidence to support many claims and conclusions made in the book. It is claimed for example that chapter four "*Anti-corruption Struggle in Post-reform Mass Media*" by Peter T. Mosha "combined various data collection methods, namely, purposive, convenience, quota, and stratified sampling to select relevant respondents, documentary review, in-depth interviews, questionnaires, participatory observation, and focus group discussions, to obtain the findings which were presented and analysed through *tabulation and explanation* to determine the extent to which the information obtained was relevant to the problem being studied. The study population of 100 people included, media owners, managers, editors, staff reporters, news correspondents, and photojournalists...and government ministries, agencies, civic organisations, media training institutions, and political parties..."(p. 9) (emphasis mine). Sadly, in the respective chapter there is no mention of the use of such methods whatsoever, or even reference to any interviews, institutions and individuals studied or any observed events related to the subject matter. The author states that "it has been shown that, by and large, journalists working for government, private, and religious-owned print media were ignorant of any editorial policy, which does not provide favourable conditions for the flourishing of investigative journalism into corruption... (p. 45)." It can be asked: "it is shown" by whom, where, when and probably why? Similarly, he argues "it would appear that the editorial policies of different print media are weak, which impedes viable investigative journalism in to corruption (p. 45)." It would have been proper if the author could at least cite some few policies and their weaknesses to avoid unfounded conclusions. Additionally, he states "The combination of government officials and businessmen on the boards of directors in post-reform media outlets has also led to the tendency for businessmen to

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befriend politicians in order to facilitate corrupt deals... (p. 47)." This is a very serious claim that needed to be justified and evidenced. Most shocking is the mention of tabulation without having even a single table in the whole chapter. The responses of 100 sampled people are not shown at all in the chapter. This makes all claims to be mere speculation and rumours.

The same problem cuts across all other chapters. In his chapter "*Corruption in Local Government Authorities in Tanzania*" Ngware demonstrates nothing empirical. In four and a half pages he claims to have analysed corruption in the local government sector. Length might not be an issue here but substance. Which Authorities did he research and what methods did he use? How was data analysed? Apart from citing his 2004 work on the use of *Takrima* i.e. Traditional African hospitality and house-to-house campaigning (p. 31) in elections, no other evidence is provided to support his claims. For instance, the author claims that "However teachers continue to demand payments, and indeed harass children if their parents are unable to give the various contributions demanded by them (p.32)." This is a general statement the author needs to substantiate at least by stating in which schools or in which local authority is this case. The same applies to his co-edited chapter with Colman Msoka titled "*Redressing Traffic-based Incidences of Petty Corruption in Tanzania.*" Apart from not mentioning methods and data used for their chapter, they state "at the time of *researching* for this chapter, the penalty/fine stood at TShs. 20,000.00" (p. 59) (emphasis mine). It has to be asked: When, where, and how was the research conducted? Since most of claims are not backed up by evidences, it is hard to appreciate this kind of research by the authors.

Despite the relevance of the issue addressed, I am a bit hesitant to recommend this book to scholars, students and practitioners wanting to understand the nature, causes and effects of corruption on development in Tanzania. This is due to the fact that the book has serious methodological flaws. Besides, to the great extent it lacks evidences to substantiate most of the claims made. More so, the book is poorly organised, a likely problem stemming from lack or poor copy editing.