

**THE DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC WORKS:
FRAUD CONFERENCE**

- **THE ROLE OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION**

INTRODUCTION

- Cabinet decision in 1997 that launched the anti-corruption campaign
- Cabinet committee called on the PSC to lead the fight against corruption
- This led to the first National Anti-corruption Summit and the development of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy

THE CONSTITUTIONAL MANDATE OF THE PSC

- Section 196 of the Constitution-to promote the values and principles governing public administration
- One of these (section 195 (1) (a)) is the promotion and maintenance of a high standard of professional ethics
- In pursuance of this mandate the PSC has been at the forefront of the promotion of good governance and the prevention and combating of corruption

THE CODE OF CONDUCT

- The Code of Conduct (the code) is a guide to public servants on ethical and professional conduct in serving the public
- It is enforceable and forms part of the regulations to the Public Service Act
- Structure and values of the Code:
 - The structure consists of the public servant's relationship to:

CODE OF CONDUCT (cont)

- The legislature and executive
- The public
- Other employees
- One's duties
- One's personal conduct and private interests

CODE OF CONDUCT (CONT)

- The values of the Code includes:
 - Loyalty to the constitution
 - Public interest (see parts C1.2;C2.1;C2.2;c2.5;c2.9;c3.1 etc)
 - Unbiased service to all
 - Unity of the nation
 - Professional behaviour iro punctuality, relationships with colleagues
 - Honesty, etc.

THE FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE FRAMEWORK FOR SMS MEMBERS

- Another initiative promoting good governance is the Financial Disclosure Framework (FDF)
- Report by AG :1679 senior managers hold directorships in private companies
- The potential for conflicts of interest is therefore apparent
- Such potential conflicts of interests need to be detected early and both the EA and the official needs to be alerted to this
- The role of the PSC is to scrutinise these forms in this light

FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE FRAMEWORK (CONT)

- A Conflict may be defined as a clash between the public and private interests of an official
- This is scrutinised at the PSC and the EA and the official are warned before a potential conflict turns into a real one
- The aim of the FDF is to keep honest officials honest by giving them timely and accurate advice.

THE NATIONAL ANTI-CORRUPTION HOTLINE (NACH) 0800 701 701

- As part of its commitment to prevent and combat corruption, Cabinet has mandated the PSC to manage the NACH
- One of the key obstacles in the fight against corruption is that people are too scared to blow the whistle on corruption
- The NACH guarantees anonymity and provides free access using a toll free number
- The NACH is accessible on a 24 hour basis in all official languages

THE NACH (CONT)

- Some of the success of the NACH include the dismissal of 20 officials, the suspension of others, the uncovering of 16000 fraudulent licenses, the prevention of imminent escapes from prison and the prevention of the killing of certain prison officials. Other investigations are ongoing.
- The NACH will continue to play a key role in the prevention and combating of corruption as the public and officials continue to make more effective use thereof.

THE NATIONAL ANTI-CORRUPTION FORUM (NACF)

- The PSC played a leading role in the establishment of the NACF, which was launched on 15 June 2001
- The objectives of the Forum include to:
 - Contribute towards the establishment of a national consensus through the coordination of sectoral strategies against corruption;
 - To advise Government on national initiatives on the implementation of anti-corruption strategies, and;
 - To share information and best practice on sectoral anti-corruption work.

THE NACF (CONT)

- Some of the work of the NACF include:
 - The development of a generic ethics statement for the signature of all leaders of the NACF (signed in Parliament in 2006)
 - The development of a guide to the new anti-corruption act (launched in 2006)
 - A scan of ethics training in secondary and tertiary institutions (to be printed)
 - A joint research programme to audit the state of professional ethics on each of the sectors of the NACF (ongoing).

THE NACF (CONT)

- Currently the NACF is one of the few active and successful national coalitions against corruption
- Going forward it is planned that it will become more effective as the three sectors improve their respective working capacities to support the NACF.

CONCLUSION

- What is clear is that combating corruption is not the work of one agency alone. Working in silos can only benefit corrupt officials.
- The promotion of good governance and the combating of corruption needs a holistic approach taking into account structured partnerships between the various agencies and departments in order to be effective in the fight against corruption.