

EPREUVE ORALE D'ANGLAIS

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5. Corruption and Development in Africa

Corruption in Africa has reached cancerous proportions. In fact, so pervasive is this phenomenon in the region that it has been labeled the 'AIDS of democracy' which is destroying the future of many societies in the region. The corruption problem in Africa reflects the more general, and now legendary, climate of unethical leadership and bad governance found throughout most of the continent. The pandemic of corruption in Africa, and its extremely negative impact on socioeconomic development and the fight against poverty in the region, have become matters of global concern; a number of international organizations are now focusing their attention on the root causes and consequences, as well as on action to control this cancer in society.

At the 1996 joint annual meeting of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF), for example, World Bank President James Wolfensohn declared: 'Let's not mince words, we need to deal with the cancer of corruption. In country after country, it is the people who are demanding action on this issue.' Mr Wolfensohn also made similar statements in his 1997 address to the Board of Governors where he said: 'We have seen how corruption flourishes in the dark, how it prevents growth and social equity, and how it creates the basis for social and political instability.'

Similarly, and quite surprisingly, the United Nation General Assembly issued a resolution, on 16 December 1996, aimed at promoting social responsibility and ethics. The 'UN Declaration Against Corruption and Bribery in International Commercial Transactions' emphasized the need to 'promote social responsibility and appropriate standards of ethics on the part of private and public corporations, including transnational corporations and individuals ...'. It further stated that fighting and controlling corruption are also necessary to 'enhance fairness and competitiveness in international commercial transactions.'

Kempe Ronald Hope Sr, Corruption and Development in Africa, pp. 17-39.
