SOUTH AFRICAN COMMUNIST PARTY

Practicing Revolutionary Ethics as we enter Local Government

Presentation to Jack Simons Party School

2026-10-11

By Jenny Schreiner

- We have selected our Candidates.
- We are campaigning hard for them to become Councillors.
- The Party has high expectations of these comrades.
- The working class and the community has high expectations of these comrades.
- The question we need to ask is will our Councillors live up to those expectations?
- The answer will be given over the coming four years by the people.
- It is both an individual and a collective responsibility to ensure that those expectations are met.

How do people see you?

How do you see yourself?

Do you self-reflect, self-correct and self-develop?

- **Integrity is** the personal quality of being honest, trustworthy and having strong moral principles; involves consistently aligning one's actions with one's ethical values, even when no one is watching or when facing difficult situations. Integrity is an internal compass that ensures a person acts in accordance with their principles, demonstrating reliability and moral consistency.

Do you subject self interest to that of the Party to that of the working class?

Do your choices always align with the principles and values of the Party and the Revolution?

- **Revolutionary Ethics -** Iron Discipline of a Communist means living up to the highest standards of behaviour. Communists are trained to embody our ethics in our practice, to align our integrity with the standards of our Party, and the values of our revolution.
- Revolutionary ethics as a form of social consciousness and practice. It is formed and changed with the evolution of social life and of the Revolution.
- **Revolutionary ethics derives from *submitting oneself to the interests of the class and the interests of the Party* and from *one's obligation to always struggle for revolutionary change***
- Communists do not exist outside of the collective. Our revolutionary ethics places us as individuals within the ethics of our Party. This requires openness to self-reflection and collective reflection, self-criticism and to criticism, self-development and collective development

"In brief, revolutionary ethics is to determine to struggle for the Party and for the revolution all one's life, to serve the people wholeheartedly, to be self sacrificing in struggling for the Party and for the people and to set an example in every act"

Ho Chi Minh's Collected Works, vol. 9, p. 285.

Revolutionary Ethics is inherent in our politics and practice

The revolution is the masses' work, to be a cadre is to be the people's loyal servant all one's life. This elementary principle is not known by heart by everybody and must be repeated everyday.

Ho Chi Minh's Collected Works, op. cit., vol.12 p. 555.

This must be reflected on by every Communist leader and public representative, to avoid deviating as one is faced with greater responsibilities, new opportunities and more temptations.

It also reminds us: No Communist walks past the same problem twice without doing something

As Communists we aim to build a society with new values., a New Woman and New Man.

*Ho Chi Minh on **fundamental ethical criteria for a Vietnamese citizen** :*

- *Being loyal to one's country and dedicated to one's people*
- *Diligence, thrift, honesty, uprightness, and total devotion to public interests*
- *Be a loving person and living with control of sentiment and a sense of duty*
- *Living with pure international feeling*



- As Marxist-Leninists, the **defining ethical question of our time** is the struggle for social transformation and the construction of a new ethical hegemony oriented toward social emancipation and the end of exploitation.
- This question is intrinsically linked to class struggle and the critique of the dominant bourgeois ethical hegemony, based on private ownership, exploitation of people, and private accumulation of profit.
- Marxist revolutionary ethics is built through practice, driven by the necessity of social transformation through socialist revolution.
- We aim to construct a new ethical framework that reflects the interests and requirements of different social classes and groups, with working class interest hegemony.
- This approach seeks to overcome alienation and promote a new social order that is just, based on solidarity, free from the exploitation of capitalism.
- Solidarity is an ethical commitment to subordination of the individual to the collective

SACP Constitution as guide to our conduct, both thinking and practice

Clause 27: Central Ethics Commission that strives to **ensure that SACP members understand and abide by a Marxist-Leninist revolutionary morality and the four pillars of the Marxist-Leninist principles of discipline – organisational, political, ideological and personal.**

Clause 5. Membership 5.9 Duties of Members:

5.9.5 Place the interests of the workers and the poor **above their personal interests**.

5.9.6 Practice criticism and self-criticism with a view to **helping each other and improving individual and collective work**.

5.9.7 Cultivate comradely relations towards one another and constantly **develop a fraternal spirit within the SACP**.

5.9.8 Act in a manner that is **frank, honest, and truthful to the SACP and not to betray the interests of the Party**.

5.9.9 Safeguard the unity and solidarity of the SACP and **vigorously defend the interests of the workers and poor against their opponents.**

5.9.10 **Act in the interests of proletarian internationalism**.

5.9.11 **Act, in their personal conduct, in a manner which will bring credit to the SACP and serve as a standard bearer of the highest communist ethic and morality**.

5.9.12 **Fight against the abuse of power and public office the improper use of money to achieve influence and corruption in other forms and in all spheres of society.**

5.9.13 Observe the SACP Constitution and **Party discipline**.

The Party has placed ethics centrally in the selection of LGE Candidates:

- Our main objective has been to restore the right and authority of communities to elect their representatives who are dedicated to serving them.
- We placed Community consultation and participation at the heart of the selection process to ensure that candidates truly represent the collective will of the oppressed and marginalised peoples
- Related to this objective is our commitment to present activists who will be able to articulate and advocate for a Socialist Programme in a Municipality wherein the interests of the Poor and the Working Class will take a centre stage in the work of Municipalities.
- Capitalism, in its different forms, along with capture of the local state and corruption, has collapsed most of our Municipalities leaving them in a state in which they are unable to serve the people, failing to provide services to communities. Our task is to reverse this.
- In the selection criteria, we balanced **Ideological Commitment and Political Credibility; Ethical Conduct and Integrity; Performance and Accountability; Community Activism and Participation** with Educational and Professional Competence; Technical, Administrative and Governance Capacity; Financial Literacy and Financial Oversight and Transformation and Inclusivity

Lets concentrate on the criteria that directly relate to revolutionary ethics:

Ideological Commitment, Political Credibility and Track Record of Community Activism

- Commitment to SACP policies, values and programme.
- Track record of activism in community, labour, youth, women civic or professional structures.
- Commitment to non-racialism, non-sexism and social justice.
- Ability to work collectively and uphold organisational discipline.
- Generally committed to the National Democratic Revolution

Ethical Conduct and Integrity

- Unquestionable reputation for honesty and integrity.
- No record of corruption, fraud, theft, gender-based violence or serious misconduct.
- Full declaration of business interests and potential conflicts.
- Willingness to undergo vetting and lifestyle audits whenever necessary.

Performance and Accountability

- Commitment to signing performance agreements as well as deployment accountability and recall policy.
- Regular reporting to communities and party structures.
- Attendance and meaningful participation in council activities.
- Continuous political education and skills development

Community Activism and Participation

- In identifying candidates, the Party shall undertake rigorous consultation processes to assess the standing and contribution of prospective candidates within their communities.
- Consideration shall be given to community activists who have demonstrated sustained involvement in key programmes

- Comrades who are elected as Councillors, both Ward and PR, will all sign a 4 year Deployment and Accountability Contract and an Annual Performance Contract with the Party as part of ensuring ongoing practice of revolutionary ethics throughout their term of office. Contracts are **three-way agreement between Councillor, the Party and the community**
- Our manifesto is our primary commitment to the members of the community- Communist Councillors will spare no effort to implement that manifesto and must be evaluated against implementtion. To promise in a manifesto and not deliver is unethical.

The objectives of Contract are to:

- Formalise relationship and reciprocal obligations between the SACP, the Deployee, and the Community.
- Ensure that Deployee remains accountable to Party and the Community for their conduct, performance, ideological commitment.
- Provide a clear framework for monitoring, evaluating, and, if necessary, recalling a Deployee who fails to meet standards set forth.
- Embed principles of service leadership, integrity, and collective responsibility in the work of SACP public representatives.
- Establish a clear link between the SACP's socialist vision and the day-to-day work of the Deployee in the Municipality.

Apart from obliging Councillor on their conduct and performance, contract also obliges the Party to support the Councillor:

- Provide the Deployee with necessary political education, ideological training, and induction to effectively carry out their duties in line with the SACP’s principles
- Provide guidance and support to the Deployee in their role as a Councillor and community leader
- Ensure that Deployee is nominated or deployed as part of collective cohort, informed by situational analysis of Ward and Municipality
- Facilitate a structured induction process and training for elected councillors
- Establish, in conjunction with community, oversight mechanisms to monitor Deployees’ performance and adherence to the Contract.
- Ensure that the Deployee is treated fairly and in accordance with the SACP's Constitution and policies and other obligations jointly designed with the community of ward.

- **Contract defines Breach, Consequences, based in the first instance on corrective action, and in serious cases of failure to correct Recall so that Councillors in signing the contract understand the consequences of unethical behaviour and non-performance**
- **Breach defined as**
  - Failure to comply with any of the obligations set out in Contract;
  - Violation of the SACP Constitution or any of its policies;
  - A finding of misconduct, fraud, or corruption by any relevant authority.; and
  - Bringing the SACP or the Municipality into disrepute.
- So for the SACP Consequences and Recall are not only about a comrade who has flouted the law – they are rooted in what is the public interest
- Non-performance and inability to ensure delivery to the people is **as much a performance issue and an ethical issue**
- **Three pillars of Party evaluation of Councillors – self evaluation, community evaluation and Party evaluation.**

- **Candidates must complete the Financial Disclosure to the Party and elected Councillors submit annually. Why is transparency to SACP about one's assets, and providing the beginning information for any lifestyle audit important?**
- **Cde Jenny drives a Renault Kwid, costing R180 000 - suddenly she has a Mercedes-Maybach retailing secondhand at R4 million; she lives in a two roomed apartment in Braamfontein Werf, she suddenly owns a R30 million house in Waterfall Estate**
  - **Did she declare the new wealth? How does she afford the new assets? Is there anything unethical in this new wealth?**
  - **What should the Party know about this? What should the Party do about this?**
- **Cde Jenny is all over the media with allegations of having suddenly got rich, she says it is not true, but its trending**
  - **How does the Party know it is not true? What should the Party do? What should Jenny do?**

Code Of Interest Disclosure And Establishment Of A SACP Interest Register For Certain Categories Of SACP Members, **approved by CC Sept 2020 – not a new elections tactic**

Intention of the code is to ensure that SACP national and provincial elected leaders, as well as **deployed cadres serving in public office**, in the leadership of the public service and of public entities **conduct themselves in a manner that is consistent with the obligations of members as defined in Constitution** and with principles of good governance in relation to interests of organisational leadership/executives.

Code puts in place a system and register that requires members covered by the policy to disclose not only their own interests, but also interests of their immediate family, and **enables the SACP to hold our leadership to this highest ethical and moral standard**

No SACP member covered by this policy may solicit any gift, bribe or other improper inducements; may be involved in activity that involves a conflict of interest with their responsibilities in the SACP.



Personal interest, Self-interest, and Public Interest:

- **Bourgeois ideology** emphasizes the importance of individualism, where each person is seen as responsible for their own success or failure, bourgeois ideology supports the belief that it is right to protect and promote your self-interest or personal interest
- **Marxist ideology** is that the individual must enter into a communal identity, that of the people or that of the class, to be able to stand against the bourgeois notion of individualism, the notion of climbing on the backs of others to advance one's own interest
- "We must strive to struggle against individualism under all its forms because it is the cause which generates many dangerous diseases: bureaucratism, authoritativeness, factional spirit, embezzlement and wastefulness. Greediness for material riches must be checked. All must strive to behave under the control of moral principles: diligence, thrift, honesty, uprightness and total devotion to public interests." *Ho Chi Minh's Collected Works, op. cit., vol. 7, p. 482*.
- **All people do have personal interests** – money, property, career, social status, future of one's children. "But, as Ho Chi Minh recommended, enjoying a comfortable life should be done in the right time and in a way appropriate to the results of your own labour, to the level of development of your country's economy and that of the people. If you go beyond these limits, you infringe upon the people's money and riches. If all cadres or Party members, especially in the case of the people invested with authority, are endowed with the virtues of diligence, thrift, honesty, uprightness and total devotion to public interests according to Ho Chi Minh they will be able to cope efficiently with all the variables of ethical-social life in the whirlwind of the market economy. Ethical thinking, that is, keeping their hearts "immutable" *Song Thanh (2012)* ***Ho Chi Minh – A Brilliant Thinker****, The Gioi Publishers*
- **Self-interest** is promoting one's personal interest or advantage, especially when pursued without regard for others; **Contrasts with collective interest - putting the Party first or public interest – putting the people and the working class first**
- **Public duty or public interest is ensuring the welfare or well-being of the general public, actions or information that benefit society as a whole;** government actions, policies, or decisions intended to benefit the community rather than private individuals or groups; serve the common good rather than individual gain.
- Ethical issue is how we balance our private interest and public duty **– do we pursue self interest at the expense of public interest?**

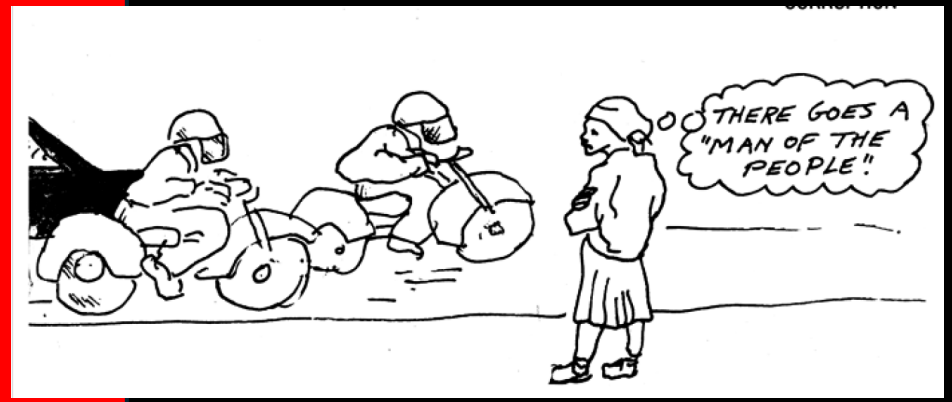
- Toussaint in his article *Corridors to Corruption, AC 124, 1st Q 1991–*
  - corruption is not just getting rich through unethical means, not performing in a public office is unethical, becoming focused on one's status and power is unethical. He has analysed errors in socialist states in which the relationship between leaders and public representatives and the masses was eroded, with the self-interest of "leaders" becoming prime and the interests of the people and the revolution taking second place.
- Story of Uncle – the journey from a tried and tested cadre to a corrupted egotistical "leader"

We do not expect a comrade we knew as a dedicated community activist in 2025,

to become a self-important, greedy, celebrity type in 2027

Today we refer to this same phenomenon as the "blue lights brigade" – there are comrades who have been Ministers, Deputy Ministers, MECs for decades and have not become part of the Blue Lights Brigade, those have professional and even comradely relations with their protectors; they have not abused the access to a state vehicle, the right for others on the road to make way for you

What is the ingredient of power which proves capable of corrupting the most incorruptible? Toussaint asks this question, and tells the tale of 'Uncle'



Avoid having to ask yourself How did I land up here?
Be aware of how your ethics could be tested:

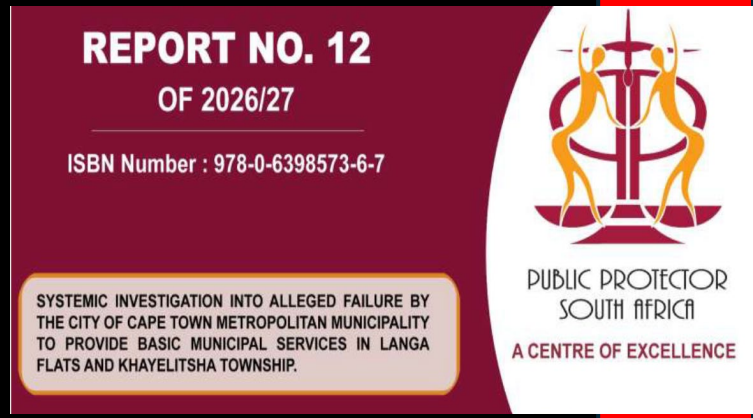
- Blurring the procedures in appointing municipal officials
- Turning a blind eye in holding officials and councillors accountable
- Not standing firm when Council decisions collide with community interests
- Blurring responsibilities and undermining compliance in supply chain management
- Gifts and entertainment offers from potential and actual service providers

State of Local Government – the ethical failures of local government

- Lack of provision of basic services – water and sanitation, electricity, sustainable livelihoods and food, safety
- Misuse of municipal resources – theft, embezzlement, corruption,
- Undermining state capacity – outsourcing what is a state function, nepotism and favourtism and employment of people without right capabilities

Sources of information on the ethical failures of local government; research support to Councillors

- Public Protector reports on municipalities – irregular tenders, maladministration, failure to provide basic services; failure to communicate with residents on service interruption; irregular appointments in municipalities; irregularities in licensing; irregularities in housing allocation



- AGSA reports on local government – irregularities in spending, compliance with law
- SIU investigations on local government – where other reports find that there is criminal activity
- National Anti-Corruption Advisory Committee Final Report

- Water Integrity Network (WIN) Guideline for Local Governments : Integrity in Water and Sanitation Climate Adaptation – unpacks integrity risks in water and sanitation adaptiation and disaster management
- Assessment given to me during the time of the Zondo Commission by Local Government leading cadre – if Zondo was focusing on local government, what we are currently hearing would be small change.

Communist Councillors and Party Branch and District Secretaries must study and act on the findings of a plethora of reports, some specific to a municipality, some raising more systemic problems.

Our task is to mitigate the impact of corruption on community:

- Corruption typically has a **disproportionate impact on marginalised populations, and on working class and poor women in particular**, are no exception. Corruption hinders both women's access to good quality public services, upon which working class women tend to have a greater reliance, as well as restricting women's participation in public, economic and political life, limiting their influence over decision making.
- **mismanagement of municipal funds**, often through **fraudulent activities** (such as inflating project costs, awarding tenders to unqualified contractors, or paying for services that are never rendered).
- **diverts resources** from critical service delivery projects, leading to incomplete or substandard infrastructure.
- Contracts **awarded through bribes** rather than merit often result in poor-quality work.
- Construction companies may **cut corners to maximise profits**, leading to infrastructure that is not fit for purpose. This affects the infrastructure's durability and safety and necessitates frequent repairs and maintenance, further draining municipal resources.
- Communities left with **inadequate facilities that fail to meet their basic needs**, contributing to service delivery protests.
- **decline in the quality of services available to the public**, such as deteriorating water systems or inadequate waste management, which can have severe health and environmental consequences.
- **significant delays in service delivery**. Projects that could be completed within a specified timeframe are often delayed as resources are misallocated or embezzled. Delays increase the overall cost of projects and prolong the suffering of communities awaiting basic services and can lead to crises such as public health crises.
- Often leads to **inflated costs for municipal services** through demands for kickbacks or artificially raised prices of contracts to enrich themselves, leading to higher costs for the municipality.
- **Inflated costs are passed on to the public**, making essential services more expensive and less accessible, especially for low-income communities - exacerbating inequality and deepening poverty.
- **Erodes public trust**, which is critical for effective governance, which can lead to civil unrest, protests, and a lack of public cooperation, further complicating efforts to improve service delivery.
- Perception of widespread corruption **discourages public participation in local governance**, weakening the democratic process and reducing accountability.

Councillors are expected to conduct themselves in line with Constitutional and legal provisions on Values and Principles of Public Administration Chapter 10 Clause 195 (1) which in summary states that

- Public administration must be governed by the democratic values and principles enshrined in the Constitution, and High standard of professional ethics; Efficient, economic and effective use of resources; Development-orientation; Fair, equitable provision of services without bias.; Responsive to People's needs and public participation in policy-making.; Accountable, transparent public administration ; Human-resource management and career-development practices to maximise human potential.; Broadly representative of the South African people, based on ability, objectivity, fairness, and redress of historical imbalances.
- Municipal Systems Act of 2000
- Municipal Finance Management Act 56 of 2003
- Protected Disclosure Act 26 of 2000
- Promotion of Access to Information Act 2 of 2000
- Financial Intelligence Centre Act 38 of 2001
- Promotion of Administrative Justice Act 3 of 2000
- Prevention and Combating of Corrupt Activities Act of 2004 – which provides for measures to strengthen prevention and combatting; defines the offence of corruption and offences relating to corrupt activities; provides for investigative measures; the establishment of a Register in order to place certain restrictions on persons and enterprises convicted of corrupt activities relating to tenders and contracts; places a duty on certain persons holding a position of authority to report certain corrupt transactions; and provides for extraterritorial jurisdiction



- Since 2006, Dept of Provincial and Local Govt, COGTA and Salga have developed policy and procedures and systems on local government ethics and anti-corruption strategies.
- Begs question of why is there such extensive corruption, capture of the state and irregularity in municipalities in the face of this policy work. What is the missing ingredient – lack of political will? lack of performance accountability? Procedures and systems don't fit the problem?
- **2006 DPLG Local Government Anti Corruption Strategy** – included **Codes of Conduct for Councillors and Municipal Employees;** Taken further in **2015 COGTA Anti-Corruption Strategy** with appendix on **Municipal Integrity Management Framework**
- **Ethics is set of agreed on principles and values** that guide behaviour and decision-making within a society, profession, or organization. Requires one to have the ability to distinguish right from wrong; and the commitment to do what is right and the knowledge of how to carry out one's function. It is possible to have **malicious or selective compliance with ethical standards**.
- **Individual Ethical Conduct -** individual actions by employees, which are intended to further the common good of the organisation, as determined by its policies, procedures and business objectives with which employees are required to comply. Conduct hhat is against the common good of the organisation or other employees is unethical.
- **Collective Ethical Conduct -** collective behaviour by Councillors and employees that ensures that external stakeholders such as suppliers and the community see the Council as acting in the common good.

Objectives of Anti-corruption strategy

- promoting ethical awareness and conduct;
- prevention of corrupt and unethical conduct;
- investigation of allegations of corruption and unethical conduct;
- consequence management and sanction of unethical conduct;
- ongoing institutional learning and improvement.

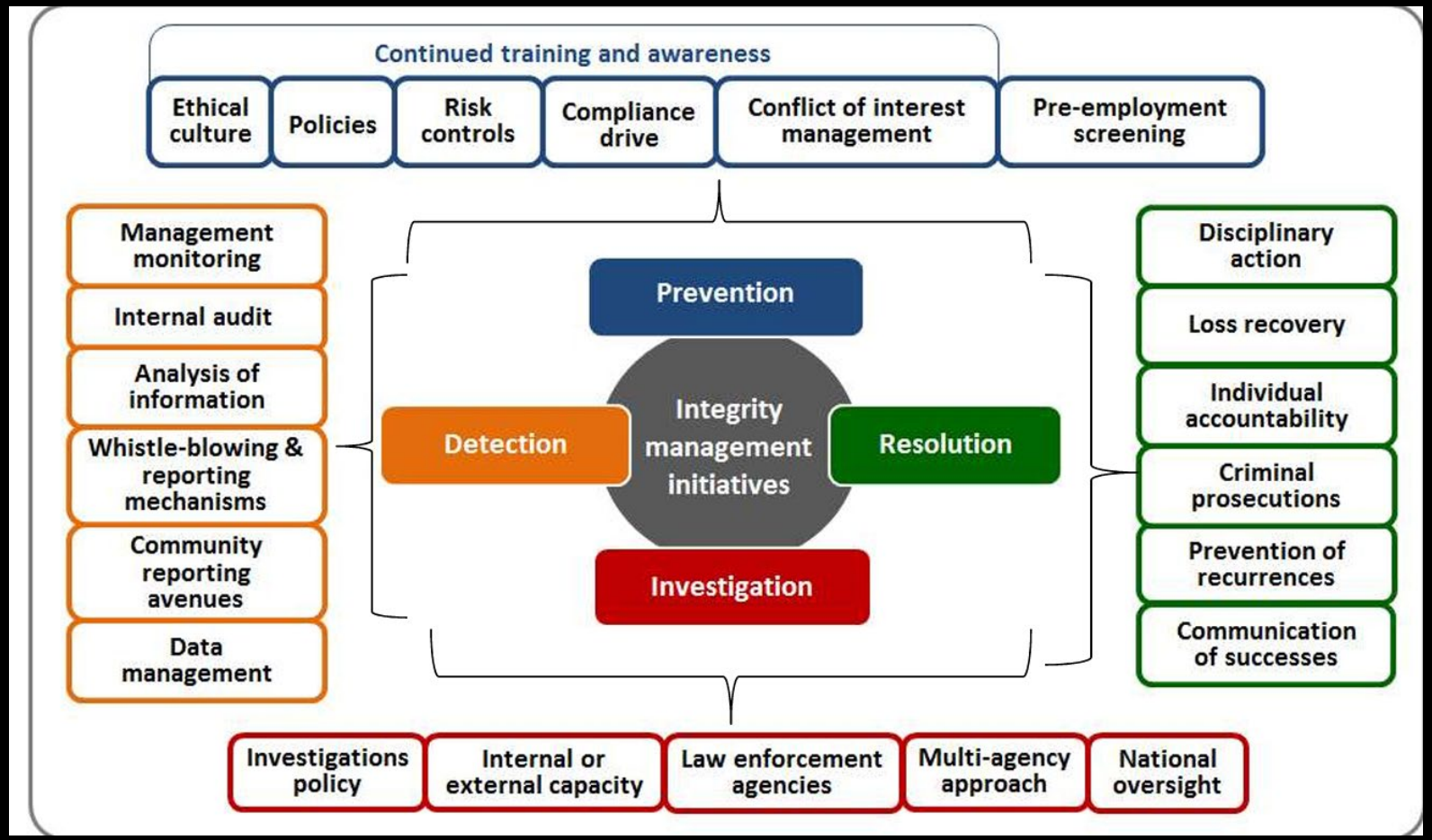
What are principles of a good anti-corruption strategy that should inform the work of Councillors?

- Creating within municipalities a culture which is intolerant to unethical conduct, fraud and corruption;
- Strengthening community participation in the fight against corruption in municipalities;
- Strengthening relationships with key stakeholders, e.g. SALGA, unions, communities, businesses that are necessary to support the actions required to fight corruption in municipalities;
- Deterrence, preventing, detection, investigation of unethical conduct, fraud and corruption;
- Taking appropriate action and applying sanctions in the event of such irregularities, e.g. disciplinary action, recovery of losses, prosecution, etc; and including redress in respect of financial losses.
- Supported by comprehensive education, training and awareness campaigns;
- Coordinated within the spheres of government;
- Subjected to continuous fraud risk assessments; and
- Expressed in terms of measurable and time-bound implementation mitigation plans

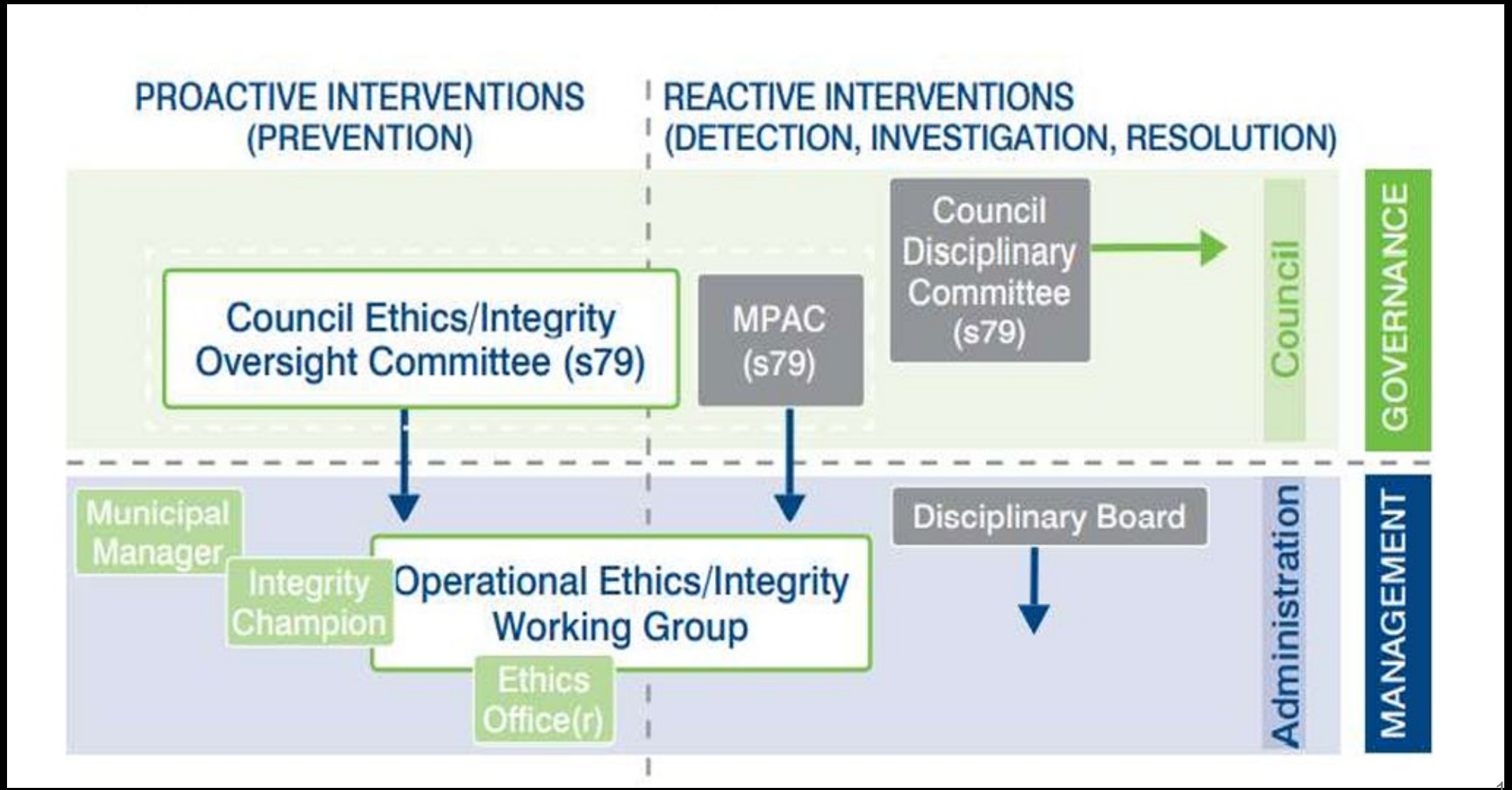
Municipal Integrity Management Framework provides that:

1. Each municipality should take appropriate steps to prevent recurrences of specific types of corruption.
2. The implementation of these steps must be monitored by the Internal Audit, legal services and risk management Units.
3. Each municipality should report blacklisted suppliers to National Treasury for inclusion in the List of Restricted Suppliers.
4. Each municipality should report dismissed employees to the Minister for inclusion in a national database which all should use when conducting due diligence prior employment anywhere in local government

What in addition would a Communist Councillor bring to this Integrity Management Framework?



Understanding the boundary between governance and management, between Council and Administration is key for ethical conduct of Councillors





- How to **build ethical conduct** and enforce **accountability** of Employees, (two categories of employees, those in the administration and those in the political office) and Councillors
- **Codes of Conduct for Employees and Councillors** prescribed in the Municipal Systems Act and the Municipal Structures Act to which all municipal staff, (both in administration and political office), and all Councillors are expected to abide by;
- **Compliance obligations on regulatory framework of local government**:
  - The systems, policies and procedures applicable to the local sphere of government;
  - Human Resources Policies and Procedures applicable to the local sphere of government;
  - Finance Policies and Procedures applicable to the local sphere of government;
  - Sound internal controls to prevent and detect unethical conduct, fraud and corruption;
  - Ongoing risk assessment and management, which includes systems relating to unethical conduct, fraud and corruption detection;
  - Internal and External Audit; and
  - Physical and information security management.
- **Internal Controls -** basic internal controls to prevent and detect unethical conduct, fraud and corruption and the training of municipal employees in internal control and the conducting of their day-to-day duties.
  - Prevention controls Detection controls; Segregation of duties; Managerial supervision of compliance
  - **Risk Management and Assessment**
  - **Internal and External Audit**
- **Physical and Information Security –** protecting resources of the state; preventing abuse of access to information or resources
- **Employment practices - Vetting -** technique which enables a municipality to ensure that it hires individuals with exemplary levels of personal integrity and ethics; **Pre-employment screening and probity; Probation; Ongoing financial disclosure and lifestyle audits**

Public Sector Ethics Survey 2022

Ethics Survey of National, Provincial and Local Government

May 2022

The Ethics Institute in collaboration with:

THE ETHICS INSTITUTE · the dpsa Department: Public Service and Administration REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA · cooperative governance Department: Cooperative Governance REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA · SALGA Inspiring service delivery

Awareness of ethics management initiatives

		Move from 2018
Aware of the code of conduct	92%	2%
Know the policy on gifts	82%	1%
Know the policy on private work	81%	1%
Know policy on sexual harassment	70%	New indicator
Believe all new appointees are screened	68%	New indicator
Aware of hotline	47%	1%
Received ethics training	45%	3%
Up 16% from 2015! Aware of 'ethics officer'	43%	6%
Aware of policy on lifestyle audits	42%	New indicator



What is a Conflict of Interests? An ethical issue that results in decisions and actions not looking impartial, where:

- A person's private interests could influence and compromise their professional judgment or decisions, official responsibilities.
- A person's **private interest conflicts with another's to whom they owe a duty**
- A person **is confronted with choosing between requirements of his/her official function and his/her own private interests**
- Where a person's two responsibilities may contradict each other
- A person has benefitted from gifts, favours, from a potential beneficiary of a decision.
- A person or closely related persons **may gain benefits, which do not arise from public duties and may influence decisions for personal advantage, or advancing self interest.**

Types of conflict of interest:

- **Actual/real conflict of interest**– this occurs where my personal interests are in real conflict with my official responsibilities. Example: I am on an interview panel and my child/partner/family member has applied for the position.
- **Apparent/perceived conflict of interest**– where it may reasonably seem to the community that a conflict of interest exists, whether or not this is actually the case. Example: a government minister's child is awarded a contract in the minister's department, even though due process was followed.
- **Potential conflict of interest**– where there is not currently a conflict of interest, but if something changes there is the likelihood that one may arise. Example: to have the possibility to be promoted into a position where you will be the relationship manager with your cousin's company. There is currently no conflict, but it may come into play if circumstances change
- **Three distinct dimensions that must be considered in identifying a conflict of interest and deciding what to do:**
    1. **Official function**: one's responsibility to the employer or to the public in context of public representative.
    2. **Private interest**: one's own interest, or the interests of others that may cause bias.
    3. **Action, decision-making or influence**: One is in a position where you have to act, make a decision, or exert influence that might bring private interests in conflict with one's official function

When there is a conflict of interests recuse yourself

Forms of Unethical Use of Public Office / Unethical Conduct – wide-ranging misuse of entrusted power for private gain, yours or others; Various forms based on scope, nature, actors, legal view, intent and relationship

- **Corruption** – Broad systemic behaviour; but it is also a criminal act. **In South African law, corruption is defined as the acceptance, offering, or giving of any gratification to induce a person to act in an improper, unauthorised, or dishonest manner. (**PRECCA)..
    - Exchange of gratification for benefit - forms of gratification - Cash, Donation, Vote for you, Favour, Access to those in power, access to Confidential Information, etc.
- **Bribery: A targeted exchange** - offering, giving, receiving, or soliciting value (money, gifts, favours) to influence a specific action or decision. Typically involves two parties.
- **Nepotism and Favouritism** – decision making to irregularly benefit family and close friends, or to benefit person unfairly and inconsistently
- **Embezzlement and theft** – Gain through taking what is not yours, can be done by single person or group
- **Fraud - Gain through deceit,** misrepresentation, forgery, concealment, false advertising; Can be done by single person, or number of actors;
- **Unauthorised Disclosure of Confidential Information** in manner that gives others advantage or selling information
- **Misuse of Public Property** for self interest or for purposes other than intended

Engendered Corruption and Sextortion:

- Ingrained gender power inequality exposes women greated levels of abuses of power, which can expose them to higher risks of falling victim to corruption. Gender power relations and sexism can make women targets for coercive corruption and other forms of exploitation. In addition, sex can be the currency of a bribe or benefit and this then becomes a very different form of corruption. #MeToo is an example of this but it is not restricted to the movie industry! Cases of Sextortion for water are an example.
- In December 2023, Resolution 10/10 was passed at the 10th Conference of States Parties to the **United Nations Convention Against Corruption (**UNCAC), focusing on gender and corruption.
- Sexual corruption occurs when a person abuses their entrusted authority to obtain a sexual favour in exchange for a service or benefit that is connected to the entrusted authority. Three components must be present for an act to qualify as sexual corruption:
    - **Abuse of authority:** Power is abused by someone with entrusted authority for personal gain.
    - ***Quid pro quo*/This for that:** A service or benefit connected to the entrusted authority is conditioned on a favour.
    - **Sex as a currency:** The currency of the transaction is a sexual favour.
- An act can be considered sexual corruption regardless of whether the service is a right or an undue advantage, if it is extortion or bribery, and regardless of who initiated the exchange.
- Important to recognise sexual corruption, but in reality, it is not always easy to do so. And even when it *is* recognised, the abuse of power – inherent in this type of corruption – is a central dynamic that often goes unnoticed and unreported.
- Sextortion is a type of corruption that involves an implicit or explicit request to engage in any kind of unwanted sexual activity in exchange for exercising power entrusted to someone occupying a position of authority. Sextortion affects women at far higher rates than men.

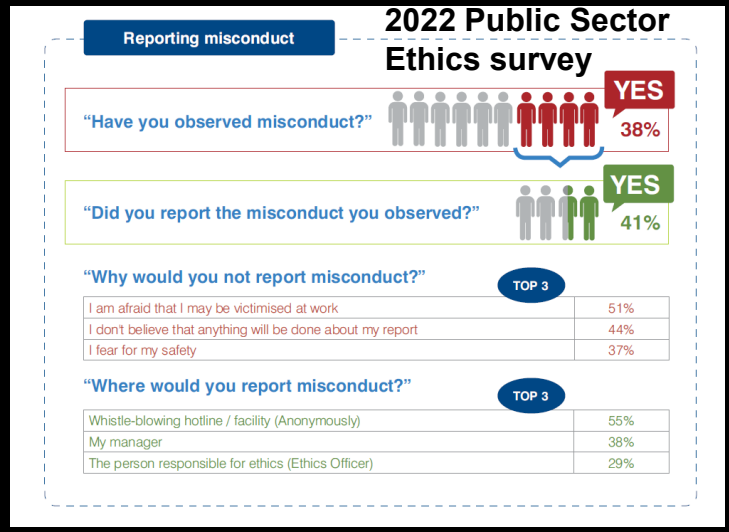
Insourcing – an ethical way of Defeating the Construction and Business Mafia

- Common and not unfounded perceptions:
  - That municipal officials face the greatest challenge to their integrity in the form of enticement to accept bribes from unethical suppliers, contractors and consultants.
  - That threats and violence influence how municipal tenders are awarded.
  - That trading partners are untrustworthy in costs, completion and quality of service delivery.
- Mitigation lies in **insourcing and building state capacity and in good governance in procurement**:
  - Only outsource when state does not and should have capacity – eg planning consultants
  - Development and implementation of **appropriate terms, specification, and conditions** in invitations to propose for services relating to the integrity standards expected by municipalities;
  - Development and implementation of **appropriate pre-award screening procedures** of credentials supplied by contractors;
  - Provisions for the **compulsory declaration of actual and/or potential conflicts of interest both by suppliers and employees of the municipality or municipal entity** concerned dealing with these suppliers;
  - Appropriate contract terms and conditions indicating the code of ethics and standards of business conduct expected by the municipalities;
  - Ongoing communication of these standards by municipalities to all trading partners;
  - Sound project management;
  - **Monitoring and evaluation of breaches and sound action in the event of breaches** such as: o Prosecution; o Loss recovery; and Enforcing appropriate prohibitions on future contracts.

Obligation to report – "Expose lies wherever they are told"

Legal requirement but also revolutionary ethical requirement

- **Not a new issue - Whistle-blowing 2006** The **DPLG**, in consultation with municipalities, will develop a Whistle-blowing Policy framework covering the following key issues:
  - The whistle-blowing policy stance;
  - Scope, including types of irregularities to be reported;
  - Where and to whom to report;
  - Confidentiality of reports made;
  - Assurances relating to protection;
  - Undertakings to investigate all reports;
  - Commitment to act promptly in instances where allegations are proven;
  - Publication of sanctions, including providing appropriate feedback to whistle-blowers.
- National Anti-Corruption Hotline was established by Public Service Commission
- Precca Act requires all of us to report
- Deaths of whistle blowers and whistle blowers who recant on their reports at key moments reflect that problem remains
- National Anti-Corruption Advisory Committee in the last 4 years had to address this



Communists must be at the front of the line in **Whistle blowing and of protecting whistle blowers-**

- Provide assurance to employees ad residents that Local Government is committed to protecting employees and residents who report unethical conduct, fraud and corruption in good faith, from victimisation or other forms of intimidation;
- Provide feedback to whistle-blowers to provide assurance to them that all allegations of unethical conduct, fraud and corruption will be investigated.

Communist Councillors should be leading examples in implementation of all the various strategies for ethical local government that serves the interests of the people:

SALGA proposes the **following Strategies for promoting ethics and integrity** :

- Education, training and empowerment of officials in ethics and integrity;
- Creation of a strategic direction and plan in promoting a shared vision;
- Encouraging sound and effective communication among all workers, managers and stakeholders on integrity and ethics.
- Good examples of ethics should be shared and be discussed.
- Encourage effective participation by all to own and legitimize ethical code of conduct.
- Encourage all the structures to respect and implement the transformation policies and the NDP.
- Act strictly to obtain unity and trust in upholding values and principles
- Encourage the sharing and exchange of ideas by all openly and frankly;
- Hold events to award those who behaved well and who fought corruption gallantly;
- Build strong, competent and strategic leadership team that is not afraid to take action.
- Deal quickly with all the unethical cases
- Encourage teamwork and support;
- Draw up the ethical and integrity implementation plan; and
- Deal strongly with negative attitudes and unethical behaviour.

The **Leaders and Managers must, together with other people, drive the process** effectively:

- continually conduct research to identify ethical and integrity problems, analyse those problems and provide solutions;
- consult with all the relevant stakeholders and agencies that deal with unethical and integrity cases.
- build capacity to ensure compliance
- be accessible, available, competent and capable to fight corruption, maladministration and dishonesty.
- Be change agents who make drive and manage clean and sound administration.
- Uphold the constitution, laws and policies of the country.
- Place loyalty to the highest moral principles to the country above loyalty to persons, party
- Make no private promises of any kind that are binding upon the duties of any office

What we expect of Communist Councillors, of Party cadres in local government administration, and of Party cadres in our structures:

We must **practice revolutionary democracy** in every aspect of our Party life.

Every responsible member must **have the courage of their responsibilities**, exacting from others a proper respect for their work and properly respecting the work of others

Hide nothing from the masses of our people.

Tell no lies.

Expose lies wherever they are told.

Mask no difficulties, mistakes, failures.

Claim no easy victories.

(Amilcar Cabral: Full Extract from a Party Directive, 1965)

This is what *practicing Revolutionary Ethics* really means