



Issue Brief on Disguised Perpetrators of Corruption: The Case of Unexplained Wealth Accumulation, 2019

The study focused on *perceptions* and *experiences* of corruption in public service covered **8627** members of the public in households and **1795** public officials in the three arms of Government in all the 47 Counties, in 120 job families especially in the cadre of Procurement, Accountants, Auditors and Human Resource. The study established a relationship between **disguised perpetrators** of corruption and the problem of **unexplained wealth accumulation** in Kenya's Public Sector.

In the study: nine (9) out of ten (10) of members of public and nine (9) out of ten (10) of public officials **perceived there was corruption** in Public Service; six (6) out of ten (10) of members of public and five (5) out of ten (10) of public officials had **witnessed and/or experienced corruption** in the Public Service; seven (7) out of ten (10) members of the public and six (6) out of ten (10) public officials reported that corruption is perpetrated by **a public official collaborating with a non-public official**; and four (4) out of ten (10) members of public and four (4) out of ten (10) public officials reported that corruption is perpetrated by **a non-public official collaborating with another non-public official**.

Further, the study established that there was **high unreported** corruption mainly because of fear of victimization and the perception that, the crime of embezzlement of public resources is to no-personal cost (victimless crime). The most preferred channel of reporting was verbal and majority of respondents indicated that no action was taken even after reporting. The report also showed that the means and ways used by perpetrators keep changing to avoid being detected hence leading to low reporting, disguised perpetrators and unexplained wealth accumulation. Explicitly, this is often the case where perpetrators move significant amounts of monies as **sales proceeds** without evidence of purchase transactions and/or huge investments without corresponding funding sources.

Key recommendations

- i. The problem of **low reporting, disguised perpetrators** and **unexplained wealth accumulation** forms a standing agenda among all Heads of National and County-based Semi-Autonomous Government Agencies (SAGAs) and Departments in the Ministry of Interior and Coordination of National Government as part of raising vigilance against corruption and its prevention.

- ii. Initiate an **Executive Order** on unexplained wealth accumulation and a **legal framework on Wealth Declaration for non-public officials**.

Our response

We disseminate research findings and recommendations to government agencies concerned with the administration of criminal justice for purposes of policy planning and formulation.

What you can do to help

You can help prevent corruption in the public sector in Kenya by reporting to the Police, NCRC website (<http://crimeresearch.go.ke/report-crimes/>) and NCRC Mobile Phone Crime Reporting/Monitoring tool from mobile phones operating systems: Google Play Store, App Store and Windows Store (Free Service)