



International Newsletter – September 2021



From the Trustees...

Thankfully, COVID has continued to have less impact in the African countries where IGI works than in the UK. However, it continues to take lives, and we should all be calling for rich countries to share their huge stockpiles and power of procurement of vaccines, The economic effect also weighs heavy on countries that are already poor.

The fight against corruption continues. This edition of the newsletter tells you about our latest project in Kenya, to address corruption in construction, and the ongoing work in educating the children of Rwanda. There's also a very timely book review of a must-read book for anyone concerned about corruption or global security.

If you want to help reduce the scandal of corruption in Africa, **please consider making a small donation**, either online at: www.igi-integrity.com/support/ , or by contacting us at accounts@igi-integrity.com . You can also still support IGI at no extra cost by purchasing your books (e.g. the one reviewed here!) from Amazon at: [Amazon Smile for IGI](#) .



Figure 1: New road after 1 month.

Corruption in infrastructure construction

Over the last year, a large number of infrastructural projects have been initiated in the Nairobi metropolitan area, under the Nairobi Metropolitan Services Improvement Project (NaMSIP) funded by the Government, the International Development Agency and the World Bank. These projects include roads, bridges, medical facilities, and water collection facilities. There is widespread public concern about the speed of implementation, sloppy procurement processes and lack of quality control. Evidence appears of shoddy workmanship and wastage of public resources, causing misery to the

local inhabitants. IGI Kenya has launched a project to investigate these issues.

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Update on “Kazi Mitaani”

The glaring evidence of corruption in implementing *Kazi Mitaani* to support those put out of work by COVID, have now been reported, both to the media and to the anti-corruption authorities in Kenya. Pressure continues.

The CTAs in Kawangware and Kasarani will be mobilised to investigate the entire scope of some of these projects, including:

- Advertising of the contracts;
- Procedures for procurement;
- Supply of materials, and any “disappearance”;
- Monitoring and control of costs and payments;
- Progress monitoring and reporting;
- Quality management and accountability.

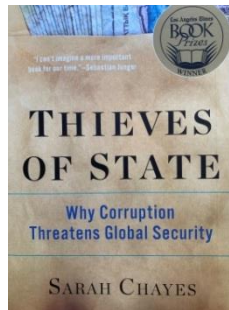
IGI-K have engaged professional civil engineering and project management support. The project continues over the remainder of 2021, and the final report will be shared with the Press, the public and the authorities in Kenya.

Widespread poverty and huge infrastructure needs make it vital that investment is well-spent, to improve the lives of the poorest and strengthen the economy.

The project is led by Robert Buliba, who has taken over from Joshua as Programs Manager for IGI Kenya. We welcome Robert, and wish Joshua the very best in his new role in western Kenya.

Corruption and security

The world has watched with dismay the unfolding debacle of the American withdrawal from Afghanistan. One book casts a very helpful light on the failure of the battle against the Taliban: *Thieves of State – Why Corruption Threatens Global Security* by Sarah Chayes (W. W. Norton), published 2015.



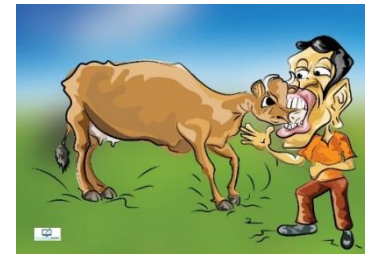
This knowledgeable and wide-ranging book starts off in Afghanistan, where the author was first a journalist, then a business person, and finally a military advisor to US forces. She chronicles evidence of corruption in high places. She argues that the US failure to enforce rule of law and integrity on the earlier Karzai regime and its hangers-on fuelled support for the Taliban. US forces only seemed to listen to those in power in Afghanistan, and not to ordinary people, in disregard of the best advice given by sages throughout history. Her compelling argument is that the government lost credibility with ordinary people who suffered from this corruption, playing into the hands of the Taliban, who posed as clean, scrupulous in observing Islamic standards of honesty.

These observations are supplemented with research from other countries where

there have been Islamist insurgencies, such as Algeria, Egypt and Nigeria. Nigeria's Boko Haram opposition to "western education", is explained by the association of corruption with western-educated local elites.

Chayes concludes that violent uprisings are often fuelled by misgovernment, corruption, kleptocracy and state domination of the industrial-military complex. Her book serves as a timely warning about the importance of fighting corruption.

IGI Rwanda resumes work with schools



When the schools in Rwanda re-opened after the COVID lock-down, IGI in Rwanda (RIG) was quick to reinstate the work they do educating the young of Rwanda in integrity.

In May and June, Hilaire reports, they visited five schools in the Kamonyi region. In Rwanda there is program called “One cow per family”. Poor families are offered a cow to enable them to increase income. In some cases the cows never reach the families for which they were intended, or the local authorities require bribes from the families. This is used as an example, because many of the students come from poor families. It represents wider corruption in public service delivery. IGI teaches that that this behaviour is wrong, and to be exposed.

Students have been found to be interested in learning about integrity and ask many questions. School officials also appreciate the work carried out by RIG, as supplementing their teaching on ethics and values. Integrity clubs are being set up in some of the schools, to extend the value of the teaching.

Prayer points

- Praise for answered prayer in keeping safe IGI members in Africa;
- Praise for all the unpaid efforts of members of IGI in Africa, despite all the difficulties of insecurity, poverty and COVID;
- Prayer for wisdom investigating, reporting, and getting action, on corruption in infrastructure projects in Nairobi area;
- Continuing good influence on the children of Rwanda;
- Success in developing the work in Cameroon, where workshops on integrity have continued, and a resolution of the continuing unrest in the South West;
- For the Trustees, as they try to increase the support and reach of IGI.