

# **Social Policy and the Role of the Individual in Regulating Business Crime**

## **Abstract:**

What we are seeing today within the business community in Africa, what most of us are inclined to call the rot in business is but a fresh look at the changes that have taken place within our society. There is a growing concern especially from those outside the business community (those whose will is expressed through government legislation and enforcement), that the business community is violating the generally agreed upon rules. All these point to three major issues about business ethics; the first issue is our business specialisation; second, the use of business gains and finally, the nature of behaviour in business (the style of conducting business). A lot of business crime such as cheating on prices, labeling and quality have been facilitated and perpetuated by these outside the business community. It is in this background that modern Africans, in a society apparently characterised by anomie, urgently need to rethink their attitude towards crime in general and business crime in particular. To be able to address these concerns adequately, we should first focus on the factor of responsibility. Responsibility on the part of all those involved in the business exchange should be seen to be reflected in the organisation in which all the stakeholders in the business exchange are mutually rewarded from the business for as long as the exchange is desirable. The first step is for individual members of society to ask themselves about their individual duties in regulating business crime. They must begin by identifying the crimes they in their individual capacity have facilitated or are facilitating. Secondly, we must ask ourselves how much it will hurt to stop facilitating business crime compared to the losses obtained from facilitating business crime. Finally if there is any rot in our business, then it can be argued that the rot is but a manifestation of those values we have institutionalised and internalised.