

Arab Republic of Egypt
Ministry of Awqaf
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Countering Corruption: A Religious, National and Societal Responsibility

All praise is due to Allah, the Lord of all worlds, Who says in His Ever Glorious Book, **“Do not seek to spread corruption in the land, for Allah does not love those who do this.”** I bear witness that there is no god but Allah, and that Muhammad is His Servant and Messenger. May Allah’s Peace and Blessings be upon him, his Household, Companions and upon those who follow their path to the Day of Judgment.

Corruption is a negative phenomenon that wastes powers of individuals and states, and stands as an obstacle against construction and development. Therefore, the Heavenly Messages warned against corruption in all forms and manifestations. The Almighty Allah said, **“Do not cause corruption in the land.”** The Qur’an reports Prophet Shu’ayb as saying, **“Do not withhold from people things that are rightly theirs, and do not spread corruption in the land.”** Also, Prophet Musa told his brother Haroun as the Qur’an tells us, **“Act rightly and do not follow the way of those who spread corruption.”** Our Prophet (PBUH) said, **“The one who seeks Allah's favour, obeys the leader, gives the property he values, treats**

his associates gently and avoids doing mischief, will have the reward for all the time whether he is asleep or awake.”

Corruption has many forms, the most serious of which is those related to financial and administrative deviations through encroachment on public properties, negligence in performing one’s responsibilities, nepotism, bribery, and fraud. All these are forms of unlawful earning which Allah warned us against saying, **“Do not consume your property wrongfully.”** The Prophet (PBUH) said, “The curse of Allah is upon the one who offers a bribe and the one who takes it.” He (PBUH) also said, “Some people acquire Allah's Wealth (i.e. Muslim’s wealth) in an unjust manner; such people will be put in the Hellfire on the Day of Judgement.” The Prophet also said, “Flesh which has grown out of unlawful earnings will not enter paradise, but the Hell is more fitting for it.” In another Hadith, the Prophet (PBUH) said, “He who deceives us is not of us.”

Undoubtedly, countering corruption is a religious, national and societal responsibility. Religious responsibility entails reforming human soul and educating people on how to fear Allah and observe Him in secret and in public, as the Almighty Allah says, **“He is with you wherever you are; He sees all that you do.”** Allah (Glory be to Him) also said, **“Allah is always watching over you.”** The religious responsibility urges us to promote values of honesty, truthfulness and other noble values. A true believer is a reformer, and not a source of corruption, as the Almighty Allah says, **“Should We treat those who believe and do good like those who make**

mischief throughout the land? Or should We treat the righteous like the wicked?"

As for the national responsibility, it entails fostering the values of loyalty and affiliation to the homeland, deepening the sense of responsibility towards public money and public utilities, spreading a culture of integrity and transparency on a wide societal scale, and punishing spoilers and corruptors. The Almighty Allah has promised punishment for the corruptors saying, **"Those who wage war against God and His Messenger and strive to spread corruption in the land should be punished by death, crucifixion, the amputation of an alternate hand and foot, or banishment from the land: a disgrace for them in this world, and then a terrible punishment in the Hereafter."**

All praise is due to Allah, Lord of the Worlds; may Allah's Peace and Blessings be upon Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), his companions and followers: -

Societal responsibility requires fostering general culture that rejects corruption, and achieving societal monitoring that is aware of the danger of corruption to the whole society. The way to achieve this is to activate the role of religious, educational, and media institutions. Allah says, **"If only there had been, among the generations before your time, people with a**

remnant of good sense, to forbid corruption on the earth! We saved only a few of them, while the unjust pursued the enjoyment of plenty, and persisted in sin."

It also requires exposing corruption, and to cooperate with the competent authorities in revealing all kinds of corruption, so as to allow stability to prevail in the whole society, as our Prophet (PBUH) said, "The likeness of the man who observes the limits prescribed by Allah and that of the man who transgresses them is like the people who get on board a ship after casting lots. Some of them are in its lower deck and some of them in its upper (deck). Those who are in its lower (deck), when they require water, go to the occupants of the upper deck, and say to them: "If we make a hole in the bottom of the ship, we shall not harm you." If they (the occupants of the upper deck) leave them to carry out their design they all will be drowned. But if they do not let them go ahead (with their plan), all of them will remain safe."

May Allah protect Egypt from all evils and protect all other countries!