Vanuatu National Integrity System Study 2014

Validation Meeting
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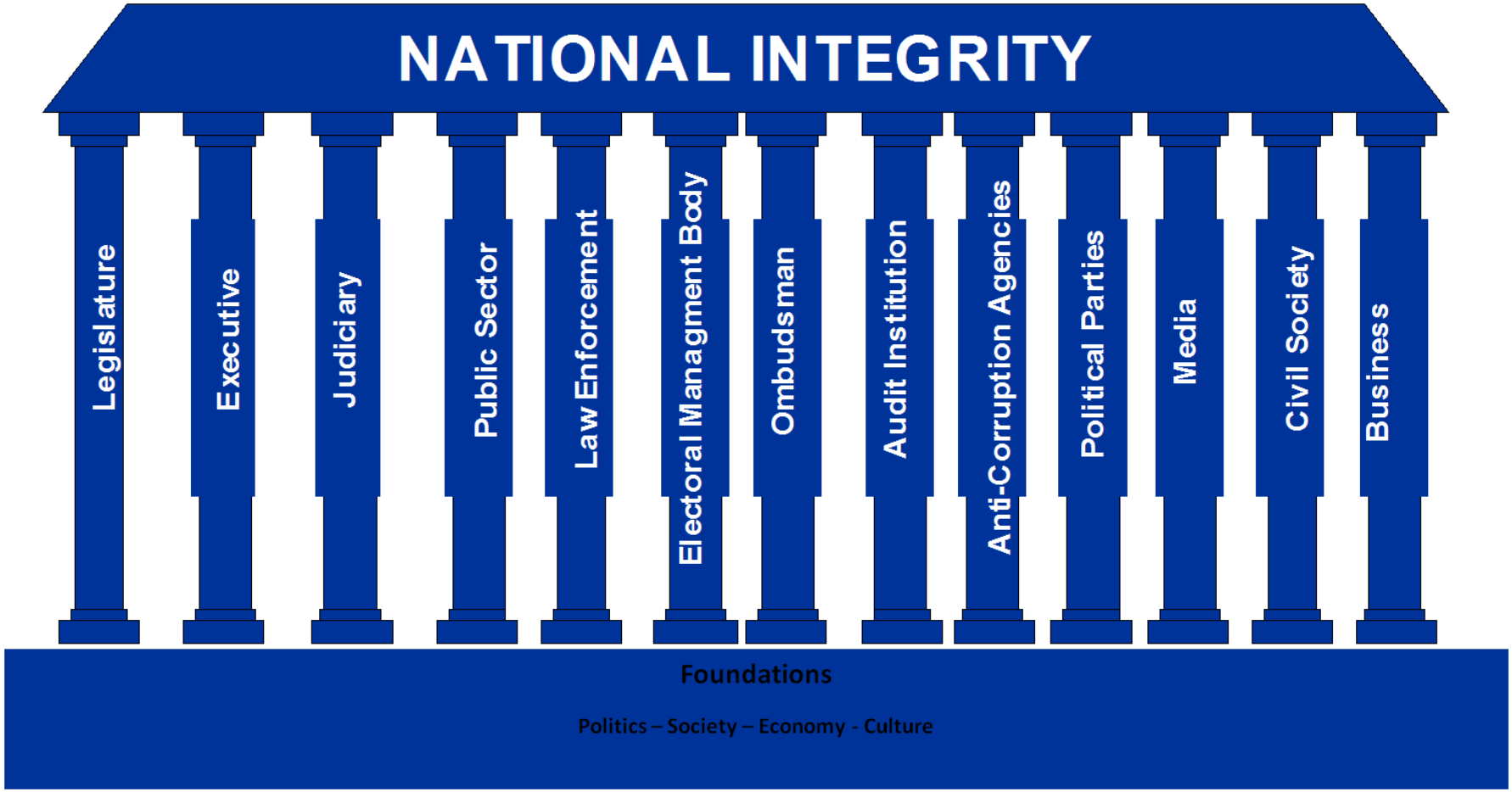
National Integrity System (NIS)

A system where all institutions cooperate and support each other to fulfil their roles effectively, efficiently and with accountability and transparency.

Definition by Vanuatu NIS Advisory Group

"Holistic system analysis"



Indicators

DIMENSION	INDICATORS (LAW & PRACTICE)
Capacity	Resources Independence
Governance	Transparency Accountability Integrity
Role	Pillar specific indicators

Inter-relationships

Findings based on consensus

- Interviews
- Discussion papers
- Advisory group comments
- Public meetings
- Re-interviews of pillar reps

Nature of findings

- Report does not pretend to be complete.
  - Ongoing refinement of recommendations will be needed.
- A resource, representing a consensus position and reflecting both strengths & concerns of pillars.
- A benchmark, by which progress can be measured.

Purpose of Validation Meeting

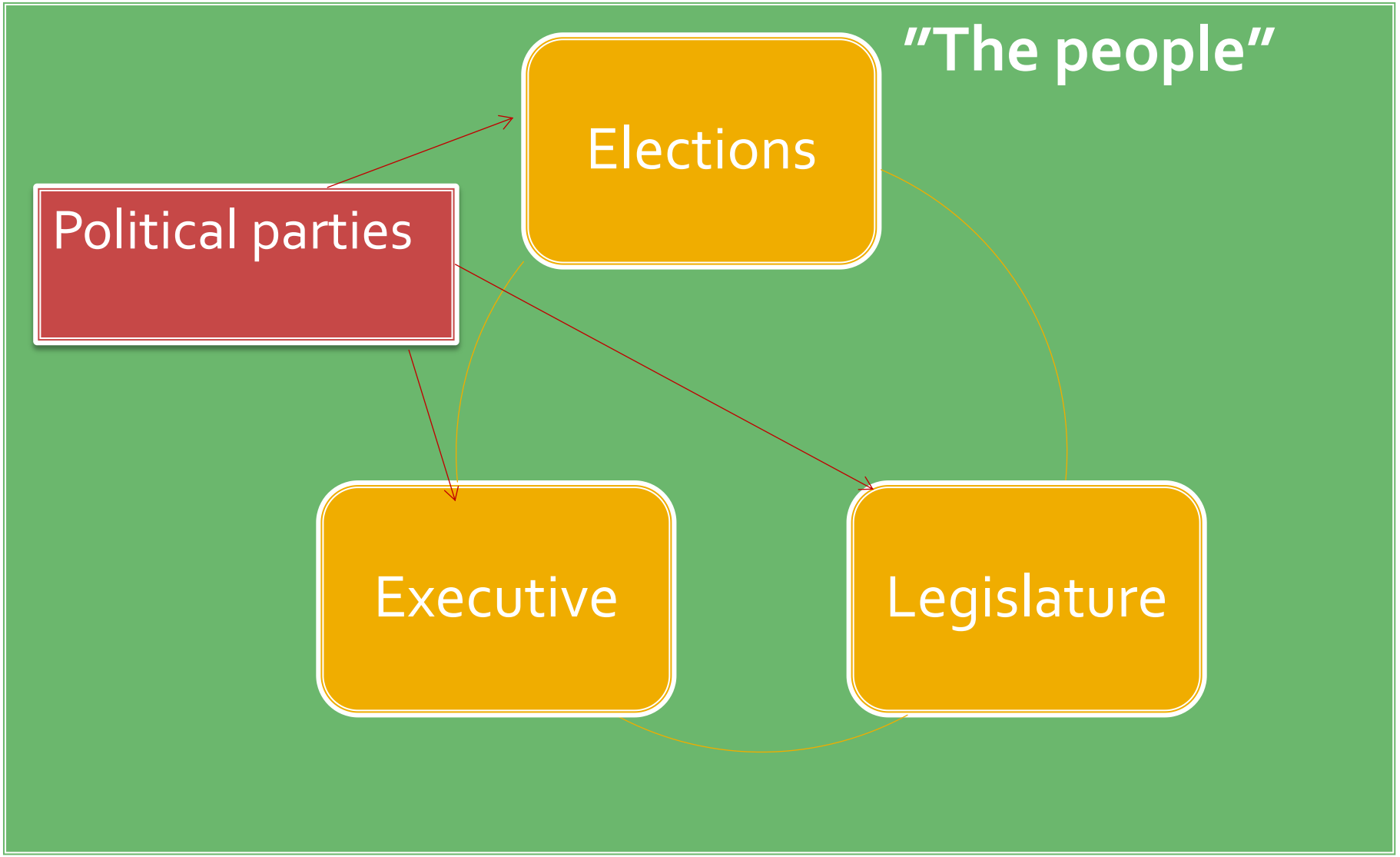
- To confirm key issues/priorities for reform
  - Panels and discussions
- To confirm key policy themes
  - Panels & discussions; ways forward
- To confirm next steps
  - Ways forward

Policy themes (general)

- **Human resource capacity**: needs to be built, but reforms also must be suitable for resources environment
- **Political integrity**: at heart of cycle of accountability and stable policy direction
- **Accountability**: helps to address gaps between law and practice
- **Transparency**: enhances accountability, and needed for awareness
- **Awareness**: "hearts and minds"

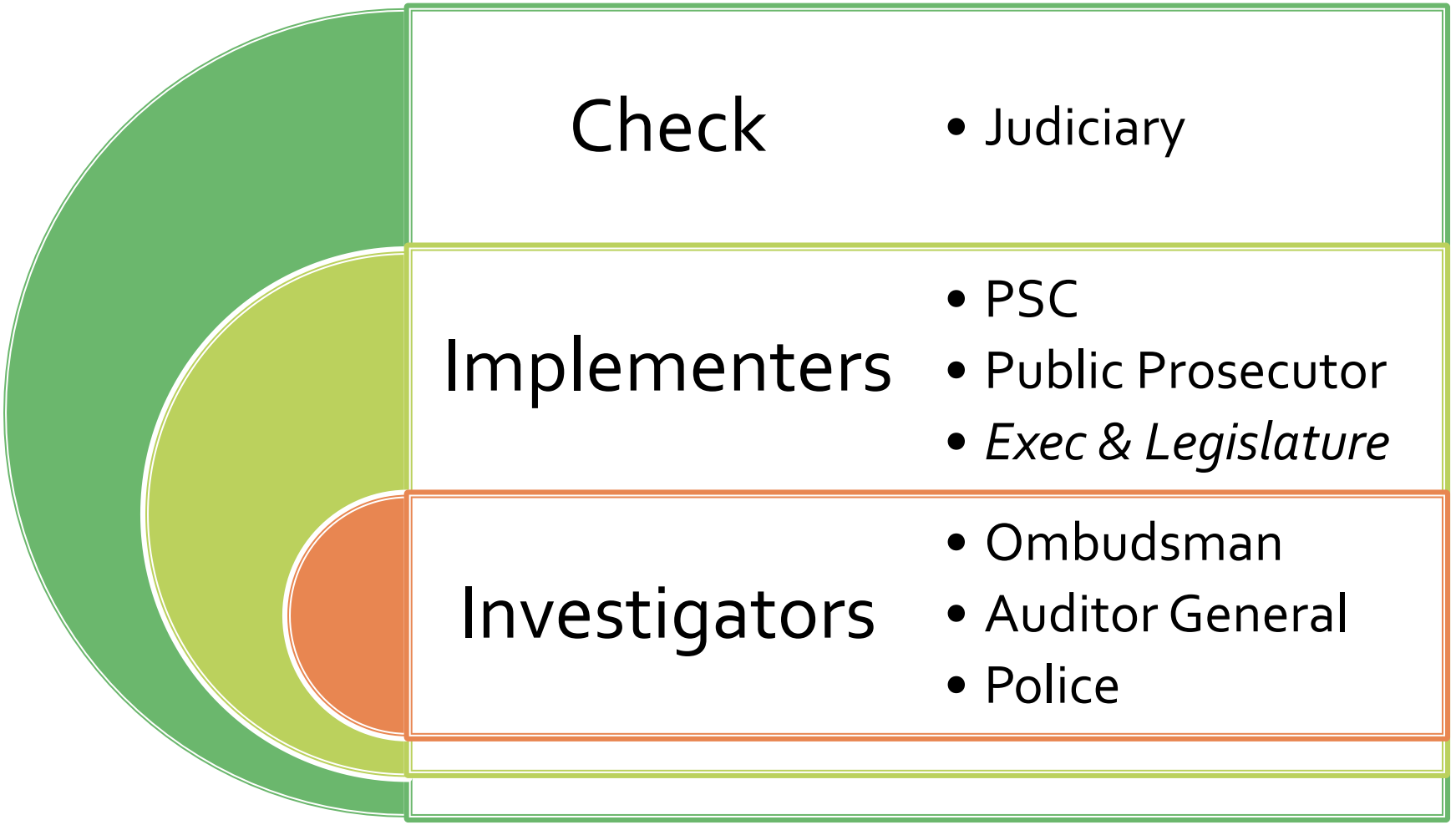
Political pillars

Political integrity



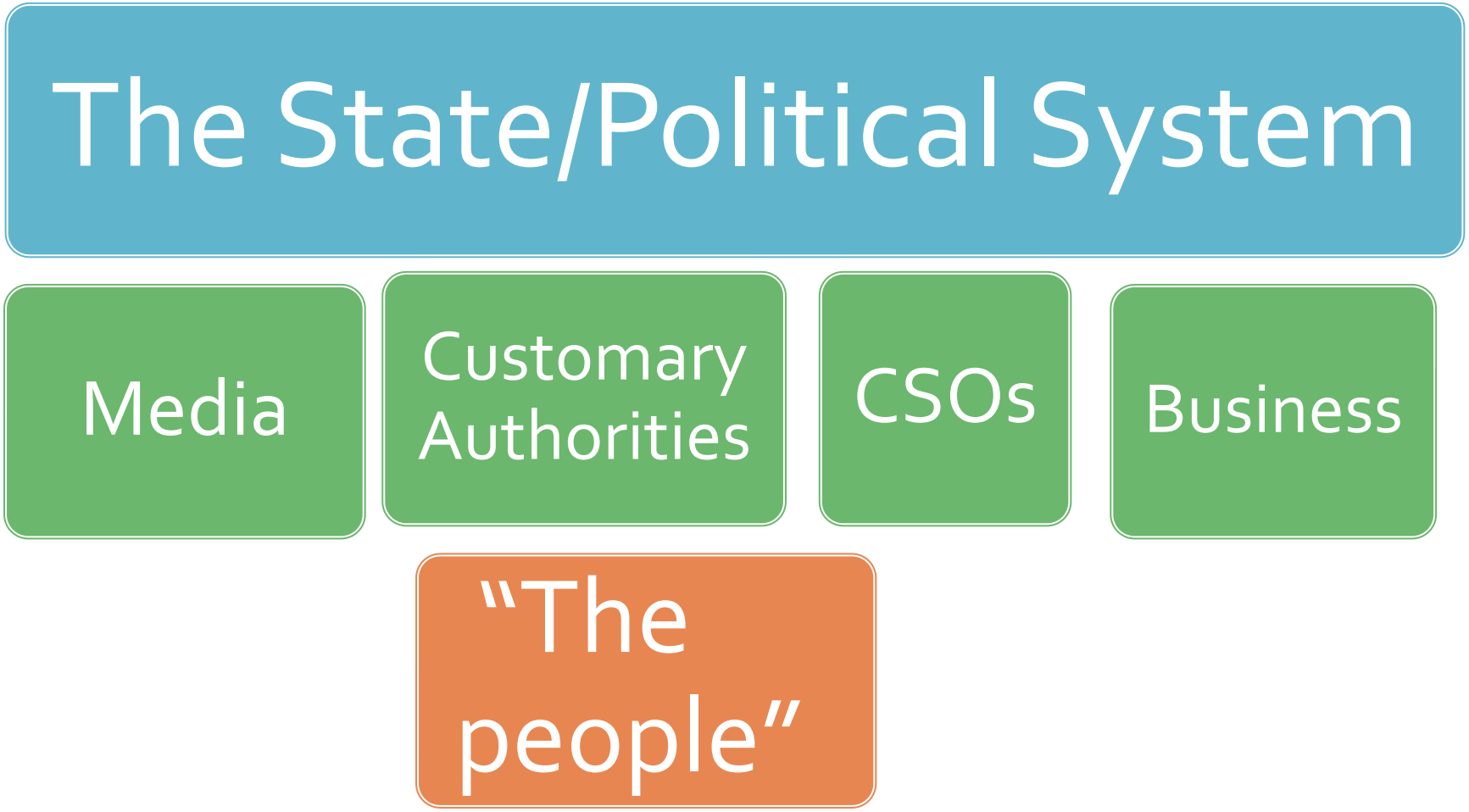
Summary of challenges	Summary of Recommendations
Political instability - fragmentation	• Limits on reasons for filing motion of no confidence • Party discipline – financial penalties for floor crossing
Connections between MPs and electorate weak	• Capacity building • Standing orders reviewed to allow more time for consultation
Connections between MPs and electorate often based on giving gifts rather than policy	• Review of MPs allocations • Capacity building –including of political parties • Improved accountability
Lack of transparency in executive policy and decision making	• Publication of coalition MOUs • Publication of cabinet minutes & decisions
Legislature's capacity as law making and accountability body (cttees) weak	• Reports tabled to be listed & made available • Capacity building - particularly Public Accounts Cttee
Little confidence in integrity of electoral process (including roll)	• Electoral roll re-done &computerised • Review of Representation of People Act
No regulation of political parties, including funding and elections expenditure	• Introduce political party registration, disclosure and accounting laws

Govt watch-dog pillars


Check
• Judiciary
Implementers
• PSC
• Public Prosecutor
• *Exec & Legislature*
Investigators
• Ombudsman
• Auditor General
• Police

Summary of challenges – holding leaders to account	Summary of Recommendations
Reports not being produced	• Increase capacity (SAI) • Increase flow of complaints (Ombuds)
Reports not being acted on	• Review legal powers/mechanisms following reporting • Strengthen Legislature, Public Prosecutor • Improve coordination • Improve public awareness of reports
Limited power to hold individual leaders to account	• Regular scrutiny of annual returns needed (law reform)
Summary of challenges – internal operations	
Internal integrity mechanisms weak	• Strengthen codes of conduct and implementation of codes internally • Strengthen internal procedures & complaints mechanisms • Public procurement needs to be reviewed
Transparency varies but is often lacking	• Improved mechanisms for publication/access to reports & decisions • Improved public outreach and awareness

Non-govt pillars


The State/Political System
Media
Customary Authorities
CSOs
Business
"The people"

Institution	Roles	Issues
Media	•Uncover corruption •Report on govt activities •Educate the public	• Investigative journalism still developing • Changes to RTI will enhance reporting • Is education the role of the media? • Complaints mechanism needed
Customary authorities	•Integrity in community governance •Hold public leaders to account	• Work on determining "true chiefs" needed • 2013 constitutional reforms, but need clear processes to ensure consultation occurs • What are custom/state boundaries & intersections
CSOs (NGOs)	•Hold public leaders to account •Contribute to policy reform	• Capacity issues • Forums for govt/non-govt dialogue needed • Internal integrity guidelines needed
Business	•Support civil society •Anti-corruption policy engagement	• Support not directed at anti-corruption • Is this the same as good business environment policy engagement?

Ways forward

Next steps?

- Maintain reform momentum
  - Within NIS project
  - External
- Leverage 100 Day Plan

Proposed way forward

1. The Vanuatu Government must establish a national integrity committee made up of both government and non government representatives.

2. The national integrity committee must develop and implement a plan for strengthening national integrity, using the outcomes of the 2014 national integrity systems report as a starting point for this plan. The plan should include clear statements of what will be done to achieve each recommendation and when recommendations will be achieved.

3. The Government should declare 2015 to be the Year of National Integrity and the national integrity committee should use this as a focus for implementing changes.

If support

- Where should cttee be located?
- Who should be on cttee?
- How do we make this happen?

Other (more realistic?) options

- NGO only integrity committee
- Smaller coalitions on specific recommendations
- "Give" specific recommendations to other key institutions to implement
- Use findings for public awareness (how??)
- Ongoing (internal) research