

WHISTLE-BLOWING AND RECORDS MANAGEMENT: THE KEY TO ACCOUNTABILITY AND GOOD GOVERNANCE

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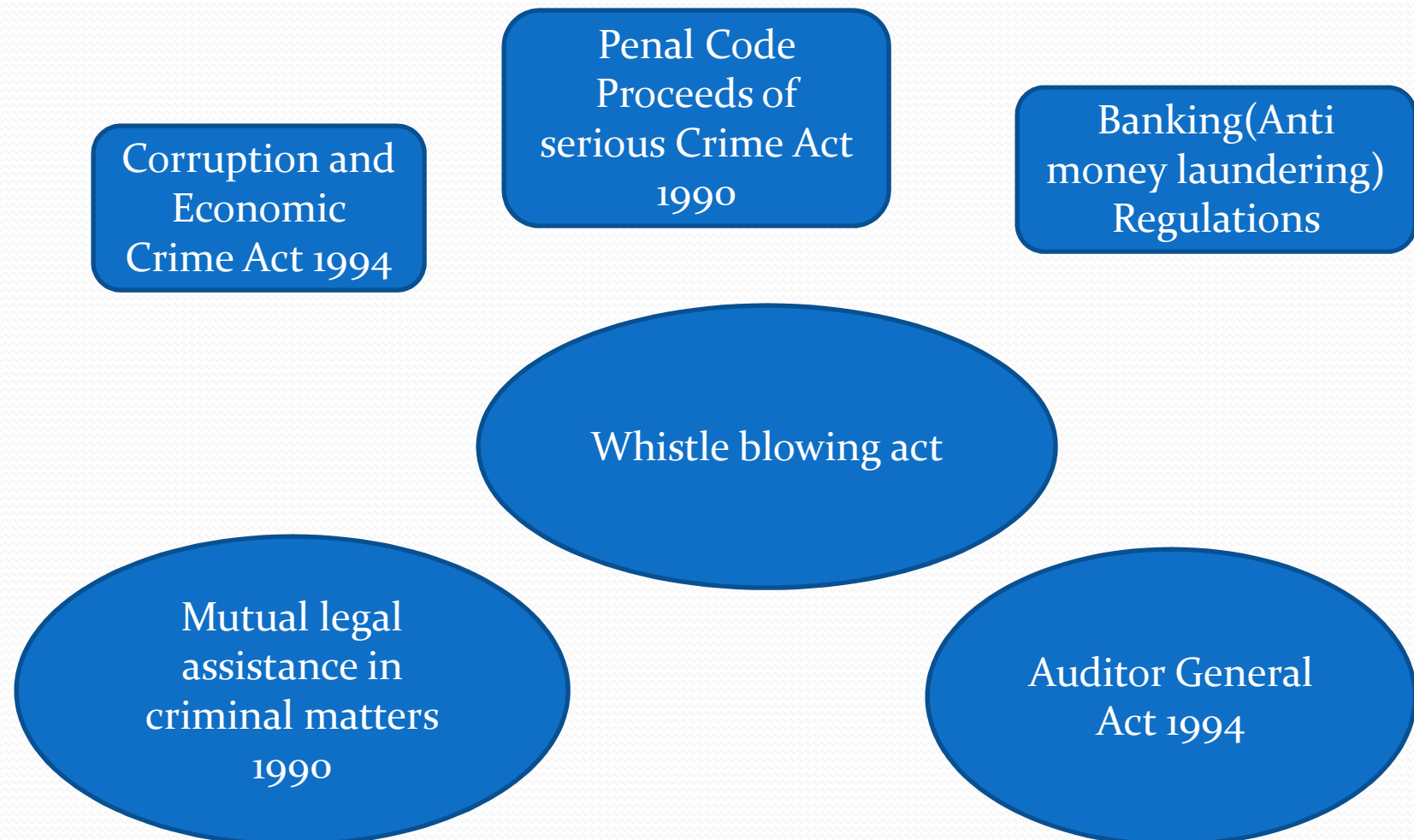


Presentation Outline

- Introduction
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- Whistle-blowing and Records Management
- Africa and Whistle-blowing Act
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Introduction

- There is a need for a whistle- blowing act in Botswana.





What is whistle-blowing

- Public allegation of concealed misconduct
- Deliberate non-obligatory act of disclosure
- Fundamental human right
- Ethical duty



Agreed components of whistle-blowing

- act committed by an individual with the aim of making information public
- information is passed onto internal or external parts of the organization
- non trivial
- The whist-blower is a member or former member of an organization



Essentials of a whistle-blower act

- Impartial advice to the whistle-blower
- Internal whistle-blowing
- Whistle-blowing to authorized independent agencies
- Wider proper management of records

Variety of contestable claims for whistle-blower act

- Tool
 - To fight corruption
 - Increase accountability
 - Improve governance
 - Contribute to development
 - Facilitate participation
 - Foundation for effective exercise of other rights
 - Simply a human right
 - An effective whistle-blower act should increase both quality and quantity of information flow between the organisations and the public



Records management

- The right information
 - To the right people
 - For the right reason
 - In the right way
 - At the right time
- Access to high quality, reliable and timely information

Whistle-blowing and Records Management

- Whistle-blowing is gaining societal importance
- Records management is a noble profession still not recognized
- Without proper management of records, there is no effective implementation of whistle-blower act.
- Need to include records management for effective prevention of corruption.

Africa and Whistle-blowing act

- Most states do not have whistle-blower act
- South Africa has taken a lead through the promulgation of the whistle-blower act
- Botswana is still left behind
- In addition, records management is still not yet fully recognized as part of a public reform activity and a corruption prevention tool

Records Management Practices in Botswana

- Good governance is supported by good records keeping practices
- The role of BNARS in records management
- National Archives Act 1978
- Expansion of BNARS mandate in 1992
- Challenges

Way forward for Records Management in Botswana

- Strengthen the position of BNARS
- Equip Ministries and Departments with RM policies and procedure
- Establish RM code of ethics and have professional associations
- Access of information laws vs. Secrecy
- Increase awareness on the importance of RM as a public reform



Conclusion

- Whistle-blowing is vital in combating corruption and crime
- Records management is the basis of evidential, and trustworthy information
- Both whistle-blowing and records management are essential to promote accountability, good governance and transparency

The end

- Thank You
- Re a Leboga