

## Is the Battle Against the Corruption Valuable as Slogan in Actual Electorate Campaign? (The Case of Albanian Society in the Albanian Republic)

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### Abstract

*The use of corruption battle as slogan especially on electorate campagne is not suggested for any society. Theorically and practically this slogan may be used as «battle flag» in the societies having a relatively developed political culture where the voter is generally sensible towards the public funds management and punish with vote political force abusing with them. In these societies the term «corruption» has a very negative connotation and it is morally penalized because of its contradiction with societies' value system named by R.Inglehart as «self-affirmation values system». While for the politically non developed societies it is not the question to think voters to be politically «mobilized» against the social actors demonstrating corruption behavior. This is because of missing in general the negative assessment based on the moral considerations for corruption phenomena. Generally such societies have «survival» value profile and they consider the «corruption» not necessarily as negative phenomena.*

A quick look on the political discourse in the Albania Republic especially after the year 2000, make in evidence the use of corruption battle as slogan especially on electorate campagne. Theorically and practically this slogan may be used as «battle flag» in the societies having a relatively developed political culture where the voter is generally sensible towards the public funds management and punish with vote political force abusing with them. In these societies the term «corruption» has a very negative connotation and it is morally penalized because of its contradiction with societies' value system named by R.Inglehart as «self-affirmation values system». While for the societies with modest political culture such as in the Republic of Albania it is not the question to think voters to be politically «mobilized» against the social actors demonstrating corruption behavior. This is because of missing in general the negative assessment based on the moral considerations for corruption phenomena. Generally such societies belonging to the spectre of societies with «survival» value profile (or – «materialistic», if you follow the Inglehart's old term). And for mentioned value profile such phenomena as «corruption», «robber», «fraud» etc. are not necessarily considered as negative ones. And this is because of its more importance emphasis on need to increase family welfare than the way to reach it. For any social actor characterized by such a «survival» value profile it is normal behavior to follow not only legal ways for providing and increasing the family welfare but also the not legal ones. And if you find such a social actor to follow legal ways this is simply because of its social conformisme or fear from legal punishment and not of its preferences based on moral criterions or values. As a argument may be show the fact noticed by the surveys that on the most of cases when the respondents have condemned the local or central power heads for using corruption this is not because of their negative assessment based simply on moral criterions but only on envy or heartburning feeling. When they are asked how they would react in the case of their reaching the power situation the most of them affirmed the possibility to abuse with official post. Such a vision of official posts as «cow» (or «sheep» and «goat») to be «milked» is naturally for a society where the

“survival” value parameters (as termed by R.Inglehart) vary between 80% and 90% of electorate like in the Albanian Republic’s society.

In a “survival” value profile as background for the actual Albanian society the request to politically mobilize the voters around the battle against corruption’s flag is far away to significantly affect the voters’ electorate behavior. As the ‘pros’ argument for it may serve the paradox behaviors or attitudes of the most survey’s respondents concerning the voters perception in the main cities of the Albanian Republic about the public administration corruption. Generally this corruption perception varies on the levels 80% to 100%. So it results that the respondents considering as negative the corruption phenomena paradoxically accept to practice bribery allocation more than respondents trying to somewhat justify this phenomena. I.e., who the more “reproached” the corruption, practiced it more than respondents staying in a moderate attitude towards this phenomena. To illustrate such an attitude here you are the survey results carried out in 2010 with the voters of Pogradec city which may consider as ranked on a modest level of such paradoxical situation. For instance the most of respondents who negatively qualify the corruption phenomena declare to obtain the job with friend intervention. 80% of them which in fact condemn or negatively qualify the corruption phenomena (thus also giving and taking bribery), declare to have practiced giving bribery! I.e., we have a formal, or for conformity condemnation to the corruption phenomena. Also nearly 93.5% of them considering the corruption as punishable guilt accept to have practiced one of its forms! On the other hand, nearly 66.6% (or 2/3) of them considering the corruption as a way to gain something more than salary, accept to have practiced one of its forms. It seen that who paradoxically have condemned more the corruption, declare more than others to have practiced one of its forms: the bribery. While who justify somewhat this corruption declare less bribery practice! Or else, the most of respondents who don’t accept to have welfare in a non-legal way has practiced itself the giving of bribery. So it results that nearly 84% of the respondents declare being against the welfare increasing with not legal way while declare to have practiced the bribery giving some or many times.

Meanwhile the data for others cities show a more high level of bribery giving practice by the respondents who formally condemn the corruption phenomena reaching sometimes the level of 100%.

In these conditions it is quite comprehensible that any attempt to politically mobilize such voters against persons or political forces practicing corruption is predestined to don’t have political or electorate success. Thus the political forces aimed to “gather votes” incriminating as corrupted their political rivals hardly can be successful in electoral process. Any careful scientific analysis of political rotation in the Albanian Republic during the year 2005 and of the electoral process results during the years 2007, 2009 and 2011 would confirm that “battle against corruption” ‘slogan was not a relevant factor for political mobilization of the Albanian electorate.

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