

Myths about Corruption



CORRUPTION

Prof.Dr.Aung Tun Thet
6/29/2020

**“ CORRUPTION IS A CANCER:
A CANCER THAT EATS AWAY AT
A CITIZEN'S FAITH IN
DEMOCRACY, DIMINISHES
THE INSTINCT FOR
INNOVATION AND CREATIVITY.**

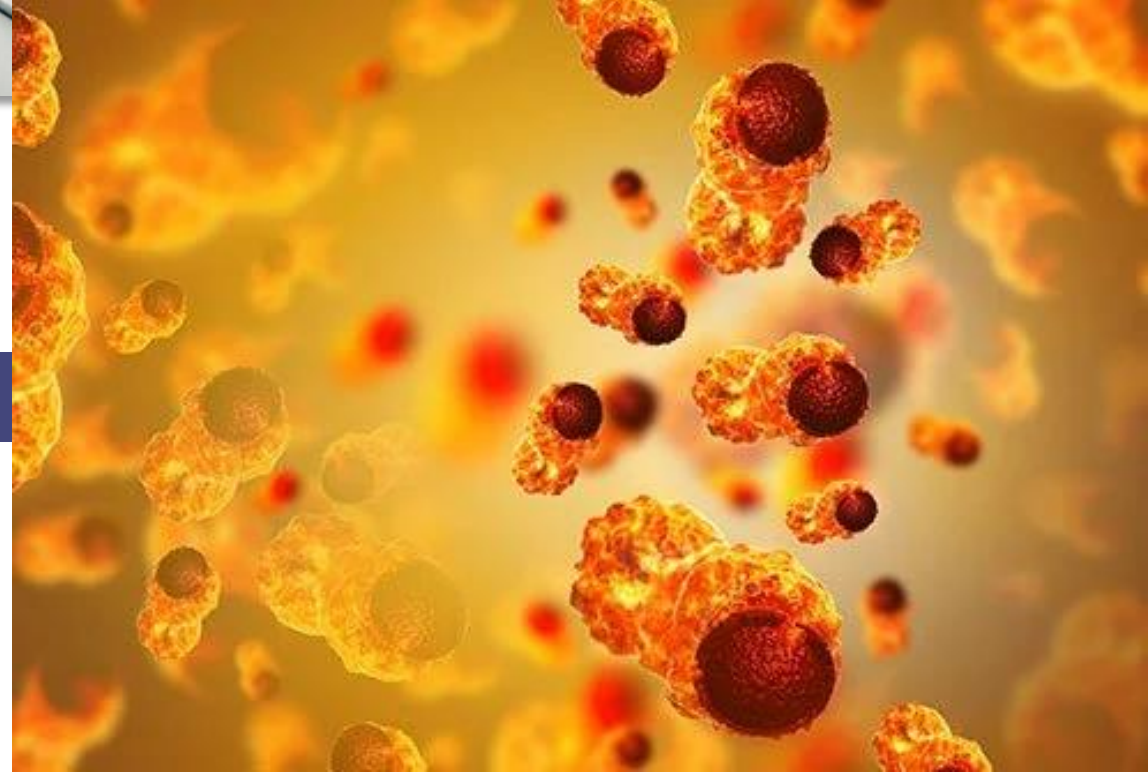
Joe Biden
Former Vice President
of the United States



 **TRANSPARENCY
INTERNATIONAL**
the global coalition against corruption

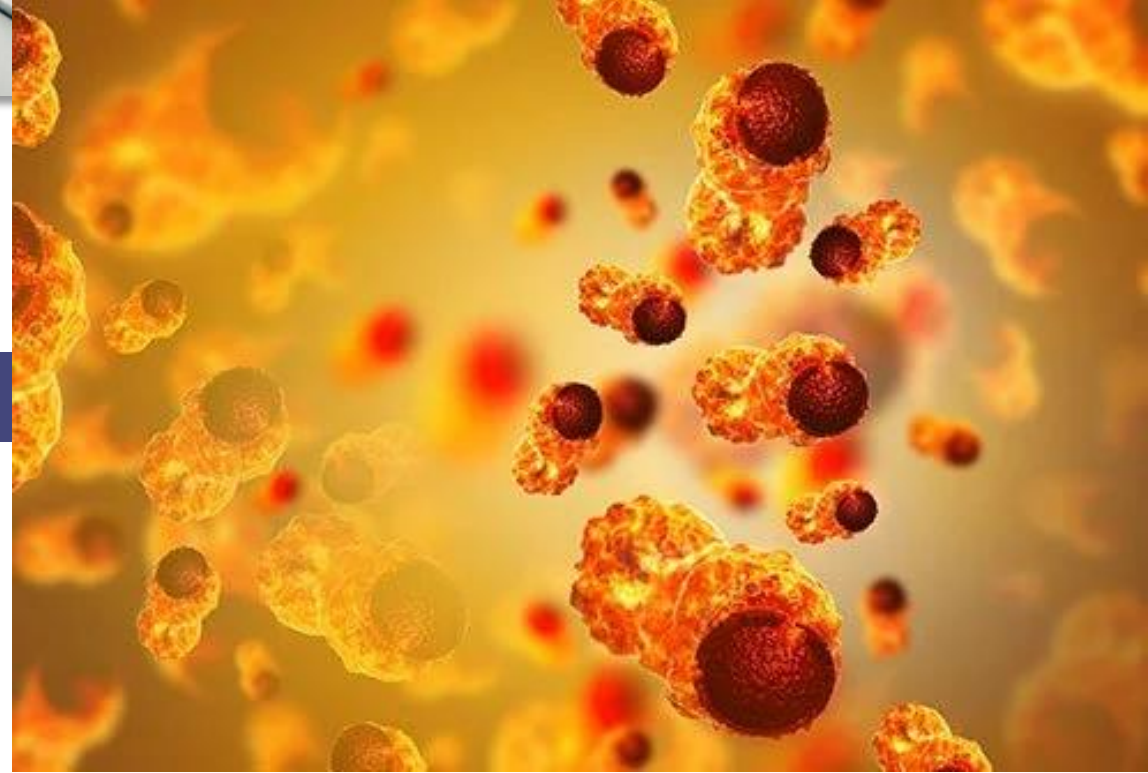
CORRUPTION

- “**Cancer**” in society
- **Social ill**
- Start **some place** *in the body*
- **Spread** as it **infect** more cells



CORRUPTION

- Find **right location** in “**societal body**”
- If you **do not know** where illness **located**
- Cannot **cure**





CORRUPTION



- **Myths**
- **‘Red herrings’**
- Identify **where** in *societal body* to administer **treatment**
- Attack at **true** source



MYTH 1: STRUCTURALISM



- **Societal structures** harbour corruption
- **Differentiate** countries with high and low levels of corruption
- **Religion, Geography, Colonial history, and Ethnic homogeneity**



MYTH 1: STRUCTURALISM



- Beyond scope and sphere of *influence* of **current public policies**
- *Cancer patient asking doctor for possible cure*
- *Not helped by advice that should have chosen other parents*
- Confuse **statistical significance** with **policy significance**



MYTH 2: BEHAVIOURALISM



- Level of integrity
- **Standard of ethics** of politicians, civil servants and other professional groups in public sector



MYTH 2: BEHAVIOURALISM

- Country with **high moral standards** in civil service would not suffer from **systemic corruption**
- No **explanatory power**



MYTH 3: INSTITUTIONALISM



- **Alternative** to structural and behavioural explanations
- Importance of **institutions**
- **Constructed** and **reproduced** (*and sometimes destroyed*) by **humans**
- Open for **policy-induced** change



MYTH 3: INSTITUTIONALISM

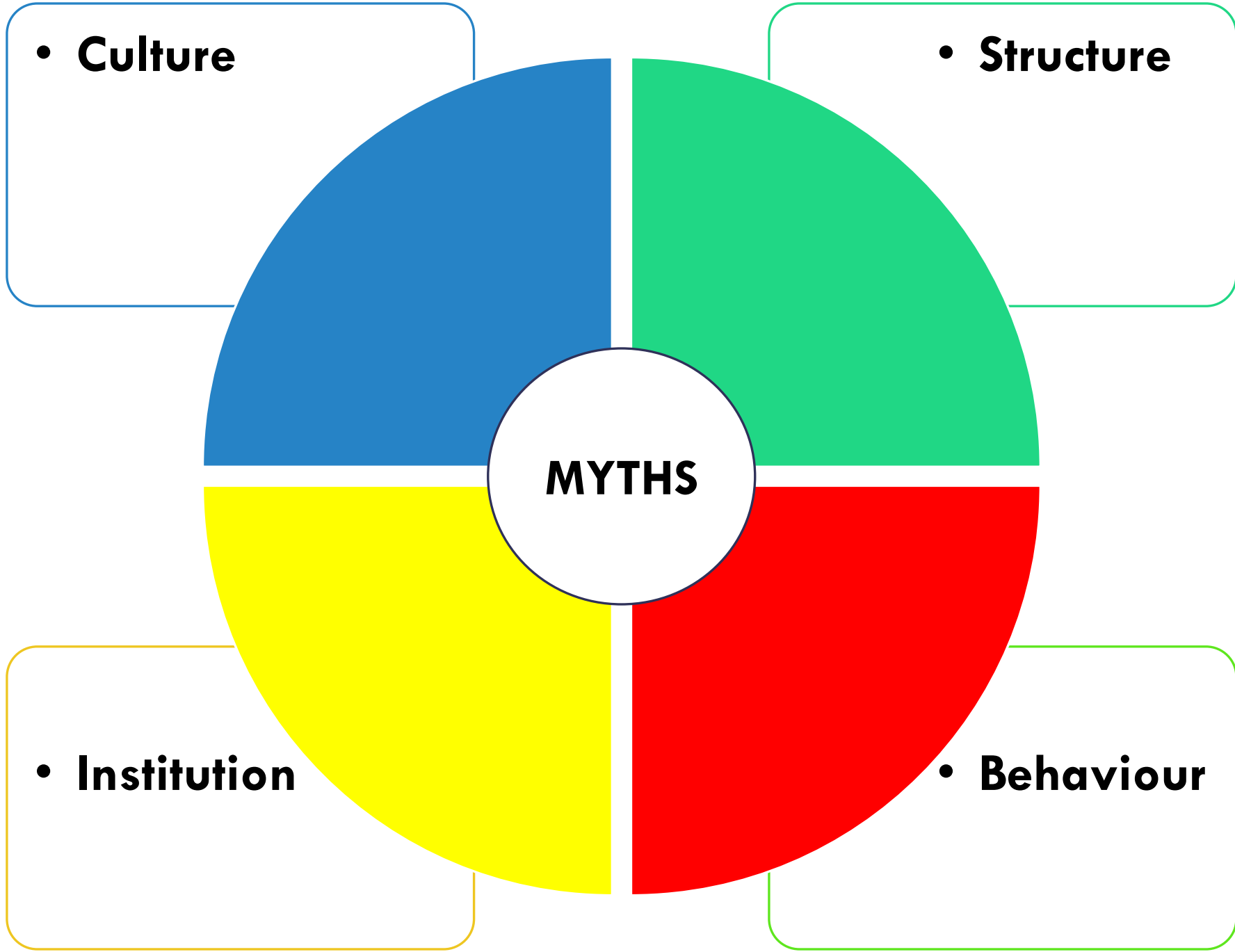
- **“Enemy”**— in principle — possible to **defeat**
- Institutions **formal** and **informal**



MYTH 4: CULTURALISM



- Ingrained in **traditional culture**
- **Cultural relativism**
- Difficult to relate to **policy**





“RULES IN USE”



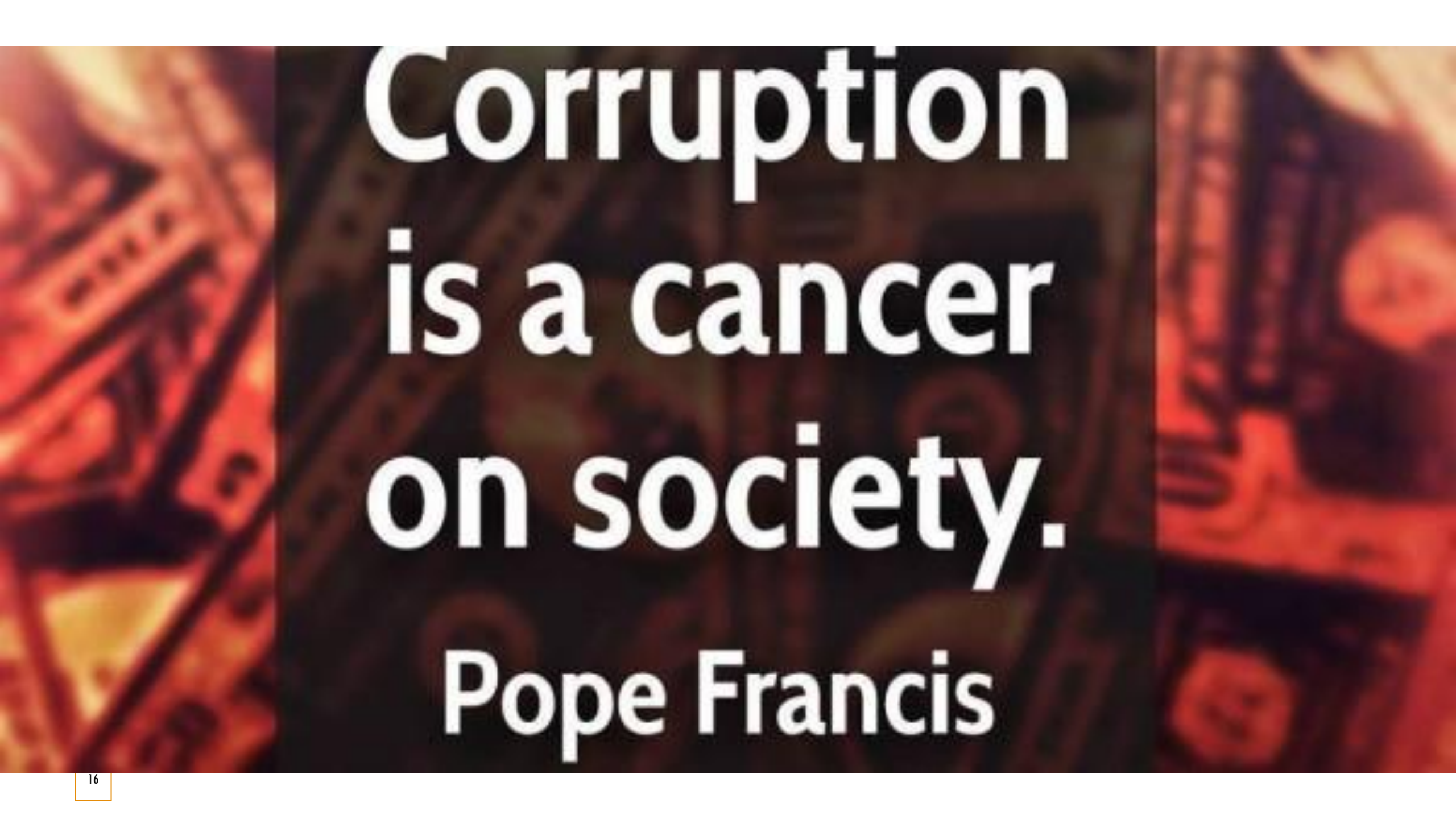
- Distinguish between “**rules in form**” and “**rules in use**”
- **Clear distinction** between:
- *Understanding corruption ingrained in **moral fabric of society** versus*
- *Corruption as “**standard operating procedures**”*



FOCUSED POLICY INITIATIVES



- Challenge corruption **at source**
- **Long-term cure** to disease that afflicted **societal body**

The background of the slide is a close-up, slightly blurred image of several Euro banknotes. The colors are predominantly red, orange, and yellow, with some darker areas. The texture of the paper and the intricate patterns of the currency are visible.

**Corruption
is a cancer
on society.**

Pope Francis

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