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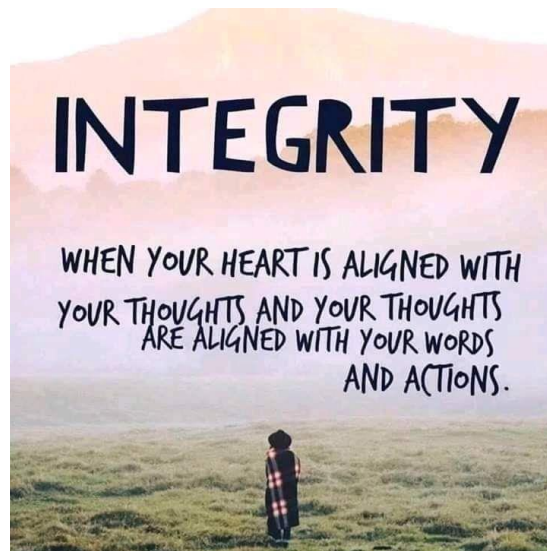
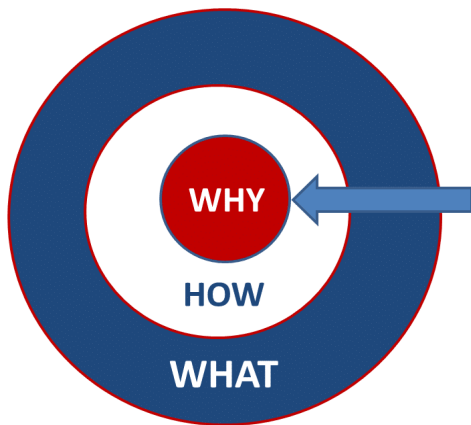
#INTEGRITASZA MONTHLY

INSPIRE AND INNOVATE/INSPIREER EN INNOVEER



#integritasza

THE MOVEMENT



Integrity, the quality of being honest and having strong moral principles. The state of being whole and undivided.

INTEGRITY, POLICING, AND THE ROTTEN ORCHARD.

(By Chris Botha)

The Compassionate Confronter*, of which I have the honour to be the editor, is happily cruising along in its third year of existence. It is a quarterly popular science e-journal that explores the parameters of speaking truth to power in a compassionate way.

This, the idea of compassionate confronting, is proving to be very difficult for me, a male baby boomer who started his professional life as a policeman (and ended his professional life as a police official, the result of adhering to various views of political correctness, or wokeness, if you will). The police (the organisation) and policing (the function) will inevitably catch my eye, and such may unleash focus and scrutiny that belies age, background and the rules of mannered behaviour ...

Over the three years so far, the police and policing have been highly visible in the Confronter. A content analysis of articles delivers a fascinating array of emerging themes.

There is the issue of South Africa's terribly high, and increasing, crime statistics and the unchallenged position that the South African Police Service (the SAPS) is failing the country and its people. However, it is not clear whether the SAPS makes use of opportunities to attract suitably qualified staff. Rather, a lecturer at a Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) College, offering the National Vocational Certificate in Societal Safety on the same level as an academic matric, pleads with the SAPS to enlist its successful learners.

The issue of falsitas (being false, untrue, a lie) figures throughout. Although several commissions of enquiry and research documents are distinctly named (Marikana, "Zondo", on firearms, amongst others) my open letter to General Bheki Cele, Minister of Police, provides a good summary of my argument on the existence and extent of falsitas. At the end of that letter, I had to tell him that I find it difficult to confront him with compassion. Fiduciary failures, allegedly leading to self-enrichment of members of the Polmed Board (the police medical aid scheme) are made visible. One author makes a compelling argument that reward systems in the SAPS are abused by police officials through the manipulation of crime statistics.

This mess of corruption and other crimes, of poor leadership, and poor service delivery will, in my opinion, be with us as long as politics dominate policing to the advantage of the political elite. For me, it is possible to borrow from Sanja Kutnjak Ivković **and her fellow authors: it is not a case of the police and policing in SA having a rotten apple here and there that individually spoils a spot in the barrel around them, but rather of the police and policing in SA being a rotten orchard, a systemic mess.

Integrity cannot be found in a rotten orchard, even if one looks for it compassionately

*Available in the public domain on a dedicated website: <https://confronterjournal.weebly.com>

**Kutnjak Ivković, S., Sauermann, A., Faull, A., Meyer, M.E. and Newham, G. (2021). *Police Integrity in South Africa*. New York: Routledge.

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Hartenbos

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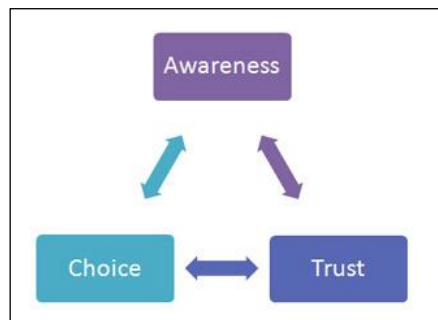
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