

PREVENTING THE MISUSE OF LAWS TO EVADE ACCOUNTABILITY

“Causes and Perspectives”

Chanroeun Pa

President, Cambodian Institute for Democracy (CID)

WORLD ANTI-CORRUPTION CONFERENCE



@Ratha_K

A Tale of the Origin of the Tiger



The Origin of Tiger

- Once upon a time, there lived a great King who ruled over a rich Kingdom. He had a wise and beautiful Queen, four Chief Ministers and a Royal Astrologer, who always helped him make decisions, and a whole class of great officials to perform all the honors for the King. Unfortunately, neither the King nor the four Chief Ministers knew anything of magic practices, which were so necessary for victory in battle. Because of this concern, the King was very worried about the future of his kingdom. As he got a bit older, he worried that if any army should invade his kingdom, the kingdom might be easily overrun.
- One day the King accompanied by the Queen went to his Royal Court. The King talked to the astrologer, the four Chief Ministers and other officers about his plan to go to learn the magic with the most famous and powerful magic and martial arts teacher in the very far off jungle. The Queen, the astrologer and the four chief ministers decided to join the King and then they left the palace. After traveling for many days, they finally found the great magic teacher called *Tisabamokkha* and asked him to teach them the magic. The great teacher taught the King and his retinue the powerful magic in which they could fight well and transform themselves into all kinds of animals and heavenly beings.
- After the King and his companions had learned all the magic and martial arts from the great teacher, the King decided to returned to their Kingdom. He set out on his journey again accompanied by the Queen, the Royal Astrologer and the four Chief Ministers. After they had traveled for three whole days, they got lost in a huge forest. They had eaten all the food they had brought with them and they began to eat all the roots and berries they could find. The King was so worried that perhaps he would die so he called all the other members of the group together. "Our end may be near because we have no food to keep us alive, what should we do?" said the King. The Royal Astrologer suggested to the King "perhaps we should use the magic which we learned to turn ourselves into a powerful animal. Let's call this animal 'tiger'. Then we could catch other animals to eat.
- We could wait until we got back to our own Kingdom to turn ourselves back into humans again. The other members of the group all agreed with the Astrologer's idea. Which part of the tiger's body do you each wish to be?" the King asked. The four Chief Ministers wanted to turn into the four legs of the tiger, the Astrologer into the tiger's tail and the Queen into the tiger's body. The tiger's head was left for the King himself. Hence, they all recited the magic formulae to transform themselves and suddenly there stood a huge and strong tiger. Soon the tiger felt quite hungry and bounded off to catch deer and other animals to eat. After living as the hunter for a while, the tiger was so happy that he forgot to return to his own people and Kingdom and he did not regret his wonderful new life.

The Origin of the Tiger (Cont.)

In summary

- The Origin of the tiger is one of the Cambodian wisdom stories simply explained how there comes to be tigers in the world.
- It reflects that people must work together for the common good.
- This wisdom story also warns people not to forget their roles and responsibilities.
- The story also taught us that power tends to corrupt when people seek for more personal pleasure, wealth or happiness...



The Origin of the Tiger (Cont.)

Power tends to corrupt,
and absolute power
corrupts absolutely.

Lord Acton



The Root Causes of Misuse of Laws

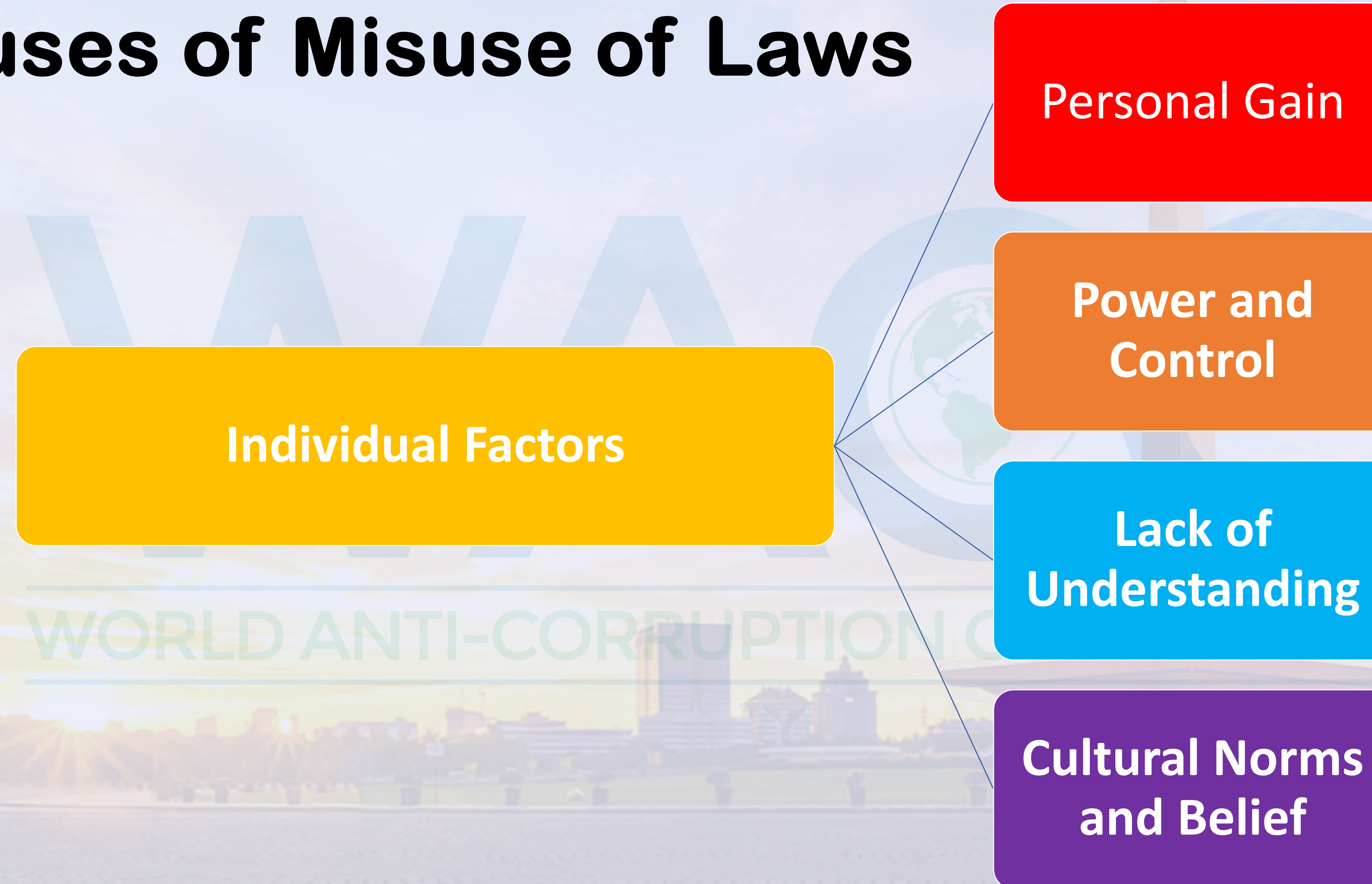
The Root Causes of Misuse of Laws

Individual Factors

Institutional Factors

Societal Factors

The Root Causes of Misuse of Laws



The Root Causes of Misuse of Laws

Instructional Factors

Weak Institution

**Inadequate
Accountability
Mechanism**

**Lack of
Understanding**

**Institutional
conflicts of
interest**

**Inadequate
resources**

The Root Causes of Misuse of Laws

Societal Factors

Inequality and marginalization

Lack of trust in institutions

Normalization of corruption

Socioeconomic factors

Strategies to Prevent the Misuse of Laws Evade Accountability

Strategies to Prevent the Misuse of Laws

Enhanced Transparency and Clarity of Laws

Legal Reform

Strengthening Oversight Mechanisms

Promoting Public Awareness and Education

Ensuring Effective Enforcement

Enforcing Ethical Standards

Fostering a Culture of Integrity

Encouraging Citizen Engagement

Promoting Judicial Independence

Streamlining Complaint Mechanisms

Protecting Whistle-blowers

**Power
must never be
trusted without
a check.**

”

- John Adams -