



### IN 10 YEARS' TIME...

I see myself with a stable career in a well-established firm, working in either the finance or economic sector. I would also like to be fully qualified as a Chartered Financial Analyst, and have completed my master's degree in Economics and Finance. I would like the opportunity to grow and gain as much knowledge as possible, bringing me closer to achieving my life's ambition of successfully attaining a leadership position in one of the fields I am passionate about.

## Brandon Benatar

<b>HOMETOWN</b>	Harare, Zimbabwe
<b>UNIVERSITY</b>	Monash University
<b>FUNDING</b>	Parent

### More about Brandon

#### Favourite subjects:

Development Economics, Micro & Macro Economics, Business Data Modelling, Money and Banking as well as Corporate Finance and Portfolio Management.

#### Interests:

Golf, scuba diving, gym and reading.

#### Inspired by:

Challenging scenarios and new experiences.

#### Main achievements:

- 2nd Place Capsim Foundation Challenge.
- 2017 Nedbank and Old Mutual Budget Speech Competition Finalist.

#### Community activity:

Fund Raising for charity at golfing events.

### Essay synopsis

Corruption is one of many forces in an economy that can impede economic growth, weaken the global fight against poverty, increase the budget deficit, reduce the overall wellbeing in an economy, and discourage local and foreign investment, says Brandon.

Accurate costs of corruption are difficult to measure correctly, due to its sly and deceitful nature, but the large amounts of money wasted due to corrupt transactions could go towards improving the lives of people all over the world, he notes.

There's a direct link between corruption and lower levels of investment, leading to a reduced economic growth rate, says Brandon. Bribes can act as a "tax" on investment, while corruption also raises the question of uncertainty, both of which discourage investment.

When high levels of corruption are present in an economy, honest tax-paying citizens are discouraged from honouring their payments. This, coupled with the weaker institutions and infrastructure associated with

corruption, encourages private organisations to evade tax or bribe public officials to look the other way. Corruption can also be linked to a lack of inclusive economic growth, and studies show that the poor suffer the most.

Corruption undermines public-spending activities, with insufficient and ineffective procurement processes resulting in inflated costs. Countries with high corruption levels tend to have reduced infrastructure maintenance and quality.

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Action needs to be taken against corruption, Brandon concludes, but he raises the question of the right amount of resources to be spent in the fight against corruption.