# THE NATIONAL DIALOGUE ON ANTI-CORRUPTION

# 2024 REPORT

**Date** | 9 – 10 December 2024
**Location** | Birchwood Conference Centre, Boksburg, Gauteng

STOP CORRUPTION

## NACS
National
Anti-Corruption
Strategy

THE PRESIDENCY
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

PSC
Custodian of Good Governance

german cooperation
DEUTSCHE ZUSAMMENARBEIT

Implemented by:
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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Presidency, together with the National Anti-Corruption Advisory Council (NACAC) and the Public Service Commission, held its second National Stakeholder Dialogue on Anti-Corruption on 9-10 December 2024. This event aimed to unite key stakeholders and members of society in the ongoing fight against corruption. The vibrant engagement was a follow-up from the previous year, intended to mobilise broader society to actively pursue the developmental goals outlined in the Constitution and the National Development Plan as articulated in the National Anti-corruption Strategy (NACS). This initiative represents a collective societal effort, wherein government, business, and civil society collaborate to create a society that upholds the rule of law and empowers citizens to hold those in power accountable.

The NACAC is a multi-sectoral advisory body appointed by the President in August 2022 to oversee the implementation of the NACS and to advise on the future of the country's anti-corruption institutional architecture. It is anticipated that the successful implementation of the NACS will result in significantly reduced levels of corruption and improved investor and public confidence in South Africa. The National Dialogue is a process that allows the whole of society (in its broadest definition) to:

- Maintain the momentum started with the hosting of the event in November 2023;

- Contribute towards the fight against corruption with innovative ideas and new commitments;

- Hold the government, civil society and business sectors to account for their individual and collective actions against corruption;

- Share successes achieved to date in fighting corruption in South Africa and

- Create awareness of the NACAC recommendations to the president to establish the Office of Public Integrity (OPI).

Consequently, the National Dialogue represented not just an event but a significant milestone in the endeavour to realign society towards the promotion and celebration of ethical behaviour. Throughout this process, individuals and sectors must be empowered to express their concerns regarding corruption and provide constructive contributions to the vision of the NACS. Therefore, the National Dialogue unified the ideas and perspectives that surfaced during the process to present them to a broader audience, including those in charge of governance in South Africa.

The sessions explored the theme "Implementing a multisector approach to strengthen our capacity to combat corruption by reflecting on the six strategic pillars of the NACS." South Africa is the third-largest economy in Africa. However, it is also regarded as the most unequal country in the world. This context is crucial for understanding the effects of corruption and anti-corruption efforts in South Africa. Hosted at the Birchwood Conference Centre in Boksburg, Gauteng, the national dialogue offered a platform to critically evaluate South Africa's anti-corruption landscape and devise actionable strategies aligned with the National Anti-Corruption Strategy (NACS, 2020–2030). Over two days of vigorous discussions, key themes emerged in alignment with the six strategic pillars of the **National Anti-Corruption Strategy (NACS, 2020–2030).**

## SETTING THE TONE: OPENING PLENARY

The event commenced with a powerful call for collaboration and action from Nkosikazi N. Mhlauli, Deputy Chairperson of the National Anti-Corruption Advisory Council (NACAC). Her remarks underscored the urgent need for a generational mission to eradicate corruption, positioning youth as crucial change agents. Ms P. Baleni, Secretary of the Cabinet, expanded on this by emphasising the significance of integrity, transparency, and accountability as foundational pillars for fostering public trust. These themes resonated in the keynote address by Hon. Inkosi Mzamo Buthelezi, MP, who characterised corruption as a societal cancer, advocating for an all-of-society approach to confront it directly.

## KEY OUTCOMES AND RESOLUTIONS

**1. Establishing the Office of Public Integrity (OPI):** Participants strongly endorsed the expedited establishment of the OPI as a Chapter 9 institution with constitutional protections. Alongside the SIU, the OPI will address systemic corruption, conduct civil investigations, issue binding recommendations, and lead preventative measures through public education and institutional capacity-building. Leveraging the existing resources of the Special Investigating Unit (SIU), the OPI aims to operate within a year, with legislation drafted to ensure its independence and effectiveness.

**2. Strengthening Whistleblower Protections:** The dialogue highlighted the critical role of whistleblowers in exposing corruption and called for urgent legislative reforms to strengthen protections. Proposed measures include expanding the scope of the Protected Disclosures Act, criminalising retaliation, and establishing independent bodies to manage disclosures and provide support. Public education campaigns were recommended to destigmatise whistleblowing and foster a culture of integrity.

**3. Transforming Public Procurement Systems:** Public procurement was identified as a key vulnerability in governance. The National Treasury's commitment to implementing an e-procurement system was commended, with stakeholders emphasising transparency, community oversight, and blacklisting corrupt suppliers. These measures aim to address irregular contracts, bid rigging, and inadequate contract management, fostering accountability and efficiency.

**4. Enhancing the Capacity and Independence of Anti-Corruption Agencies:** Agencies such as the Hawks, the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA), and the Special Investigating Unit (SIU) encounter significant resource and capacity challenges. Recommendations include increasing funding, enhancing forensic capabilities, and establishing a dedicated unit within the NPA to prosecute complex corruption cases. Inter-agency collaboration, guided by a streamlined case management system, is essential for effective law enforcement.

**5. Professionalisation of the Public Sector:** To establish a capable and ethical developmental state, participants emphasised the necessity of mandatory ethics training, competency-based recruitment, and reforms in performance management. The ongoing initiatives of the National School of Government have received praise; however, challenges such as resistance to change and resource limitations persist. Prioritised were targeted programmes to foster a culture of continuous learning and accountability.

**6. Inclusive Anti-Corruption Strategies:** Integrating gender and youth perspectives is vital for tackling systemic inequalities and fostering ethical governance. Strategies encompass crafting gender-sensitive anti-corruption policies, involving youth through innovative means such as social media, and empowering marginalised communities to engage in governance.

**7. Safeguarding Vulnerable Sectors and Communities:** The impact of corruption on at-risk sectors—including healthcare, education, and local government—highlights the necessity for targeted oversight and reform. Increased public engagement, enhanced mechanisms for service delivery, and greater accountability are acknowledged as essential priorities.

## CALL TO ACTION
The event concluded with a shared commitment to advancing the pillars of the NACS through decisive action, including but not limited to:

- **Implementation:** Accelerate the operationalisation of the OPI and enhance existing agencies to tackle systemic and individual corruption.

- **Education and Engagement:** Launch comprehensive public education campaigns to foster a culture of integrity and active citizenry.

- **Legislative Reform:** Prioritize legal frameworks that protect whistleblowers, enhance procurement systems, and support independent anti-corruption bodies.

- **Collaboration:** Foster multi-sectoral partnerships to build an inclusive, transparent, and accountable governance system.

The event concluded on a hopeful note, with **Prof. F. Cachalia,** Chairperson of NACAC, describing the dialogue as a potential "Codesa moment" in the fight against corruption. The dialogue laid the groundwork for a cohesive, action-oriented anti-corruption agenda by uniting stakeholders across sectors, underscoring the urgency of safeguarding South Africa's democratic and developmental future.

# DAY 1: INTERNATIONAL ANTI-CORRUPTION DAY (IACD)

## BACKGROUND ON THE INTERNATIONAL ANTI-CORRUPTION DAY (IACD)

The United Nations has designated 9 December as International Anti-Corruption Day to raise global awareness of corruption's pervasive effects on societies and encourage collaborative efforts to combat it. First observed in 2003, this day commemorates the adoption of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC) and provides a platform for governments, civil society, and individuals to reflect on strategies for upholding transparency, accountability, and ethical governance.

## THE 2024 THEME: "UNITING WITH YOUTH AGAINST CORRUPTION: SHAPING TOMORROW'S INTEGRITY"

The 2024 theme emphasises the crucial role of young people in the fight against corruption and envisions a future grounded in integrity and transparency. Young people are key stakeholders and agents of change, providing innovative perspectives, energy, and a long-term commitment to transforming governance systems.

The theme highlights the intergenerational aspect of the anti-corruption movement. It advocates for a united front where governments, civil society, and youth collaborate to establish ethical institutions and instil a culture of accountability. By incorporating youth perspectives and creating platforms for their active participation, the campaign aims to promote long-term societal transformation.

The 2024 IACD calls on stakeholders worldwide to engage youth in policymaking, capacity-building, and advocacy efforts to combat corruption. It reinforces the notion that today's youth-driven initiatives lay the foundation for a future where integrity is a societal norm, not an exception.

In the lead up to the IACD and National Dialogue on Anti-Corruption, a dialogue for youth was convened and a workshop on institutionalizing gender was held. The key issues and outcomes discussed in these sessions were presented at the National Dialogue in December. The reports from the youth dialogue and gender workshop are annexed.

## SESSION 1: OPENING PLENARY

### OPENING AND WELCOME
**Nkosikazi N. Mhlauli** *(Deputy Chairperson, NACAC)*

Nkosikazi N. Mhlauli, Deputy Chairperson of the National Anti-Corruption Advisory Council (NACAC), delivered the opening and welcome remarks at the National Dialogue on Anti-Corruption 2024. She began by acknowledging the broader context of the event, which coincided with the conclusion of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence and Femicide. Mhlauli commended the efforts of partners and supporters who have contributed to this vital campaign, emphasising its significance in fostering a safer and more equitable society.

In her remarks, Mhlauli aligned with the theme of the day and highlighted the role of youth as crucial agents of change in the fight against corruption. She stated that young people are not only the leaders of tomorrow but also active change-makers today, whose voices, ideas, and actions are vital to fostering a culture of accountability and ethical governance. This, she explained, aligns with the objectives of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy (NACS), which acknowledges the necessity for inclusive participation in tackling corruption.

Mhlauli emphasised the importance of collaboration in combating corruption, describing it as a task that necessitates a whole-of-society approach. She stressed that this challenge is not solely the responsibility of government and law enforcement agencies, but a shared duty that involves individuals, communities, and institutions. Partnerships, such as NACAC's collaboration with the Public Service Commission, were highlighted as critical for assessing progress and identifying practical ways to enhance collective efforts in the fight against corruption.

She asserted that the dialogue serves as a platform to bridge existing gaps, empower stakeholders, and promote meaningful engagement. Mhlauli outlined the program's focus on fostering robust discussions and debates and gaining insights on the progress made in implementing the six strategic pillars of the NACS. These pillars, which range from strengthening accountability to fostering an ethical public service, form the foundation of a vision for a corruption-free society.

Framing the battle against corruption as a generational mission, Mhlauli underscored that achieving this goal necessitates a long-term commitment and the cultivation of integrity for future generations. She reminded participants that the struggle against corruption is not one that allows for shortcuts but demands unwavering determination and sustained effort.

In closing, Mhlauli expressed hope for a South Africa where fairness and accountability are the norm rather than the exception. She called on delegates to actively participate in shaping this vision, approaching the dialogue with open minds and a shared resolve to drive meaningful progress. Her remarks set a tone of optimism and urgency for the event, encouraging collective action to advance the goals of the NACS and secure a brighter, more accountable future for all.

## REMARKS & INTRODUCTION OF MINISTER IN THE PRESIDENCY, Ms P. Baleni *(Director-General and Secretary of the Cabinet)*

Ms P. Baleni, Director-General in the Presidency and Secretary of the Cabinet delivered a detailed and thought-provoking address during the National Dialogue on Anti-Corruption 2024. She began by acknowledging the global and national significance of International Anti-Corruption Day, observed annually on December 9. Ms Baleni reflected on the outcomes of the 10th session of the Conference of State Parties to the UN Convention Against Corruption, held in Atlanta the previous year. The conference emphasised the importance of integrity, accountability, and transparency in fighting corruption and called for a united, all-of-society approach to safeguard the rule of law and restore trust in institutions.

Quoting former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, Ms Baleni highlighted the insidious and corrosive effects of corruption, which undermine democracy, distort markets, and enable organised crime. As a signatory to the UN Convention, she emphasised that South Africa must confront corruption, describing it as a pandemic that threatens socio-economic development and transformation. She linked this global perspective to South Africa's National Development Plan (NDP), underscoring the necessity for a capable, ethical, and developmental state. Corruption within government, she remarked, impacts the broader societal value system, rendering it essential for the government to lead by example in nurturing accountability and ethical behaviour.

Ms Baleni detailed the adoption of the NACS in 2019, a pivotal tool for addressing corruption through principles such as good governance, transparency, integrity management, and early detection of corrupt practices. She acknowledged the efforts of His Excellency President Cyril Ramaphosa, whose leadership emphasises that corruption threatens democratic values and the dream of an ethical state. The NACS's six strategic pillars, earlier outlined by Deputy Chairperson Nkosikazi N. Mhlauli, provide the framework for tackling corruption comprehensively.

Reflecting on establishing the NACAC in 2022, Ms Baleni outlined its roles, which include overseeing the transitional implementation of the NACS, drafting legislative proposals for a permanent anti-corruption body, and fostering public consultations and advocacy. She noted that the Council had worked diligently to fulfil its mandate, including producing an interim report with recommendations to strengthen the state's capacity to fight corruption. This report, currently under review by government structures, has been commended by the President for its thoroughness and strategic insights.

Ms Baleni expressed concern about the public's growing impatience with the pervasive corruption affecting the public and private sectors. She emphasised the government's commitment to mobilising stakeholders, including civil society and business leaders, to restore public trust and confidence. Quoting Transparency International's 2023 Corruption Perception Index, she reiterated the urgent need for independent and effective justice systems to punish wrongdoing and uphold the rule of law.

In her closing remarks, Ms Baleni highlighted that corruption threatens the basic values of democracy and equitable development. She affirmed the government's ongoing commitment to building a capable, ethical, and developmental state, recognising that this mission will remain a priority for successive administrations. Before introducing the Minister of Public Service and Administration, she expressed optimism that the two-day dialogue would yield actionable plans to create integrity-driven institutions and society.

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER**
**Hon. Inkosi Mzamo Buthelezi** *(Minister for the Public Service and Administration)*

Hon. Inkosi Mzamo Buthelezi, MP, Minister for the Public Service and Administration, delivered a keynote address emphasising the urgent need to confront corruption as a threat to South Africa's democracy, development, and societal cohesion. Speaking under the banner of unity and determination, the Minister highlighted the significance of International Anti-Corruption Day and the National Dialogue as a platform to reaffirm collective commitment to tackling corruption and restoring integrity in governance.

The Minister described corruption as a pervasive "cancer" that erodes democracy, deepens inequality, and hinders socio-economic development. He noted that corruption distorts markets, diverts resources intended for essential services, and undermines public trust in state institutions. Recognising that corruption impacts both developed and developing nations, the Minister called for a multi-sectoral approach to tackle this societal challenge, emphasising the involvement of government, the private sector, civil society, academia, and active citizens.

He outlined the NACS as a comprehensive roadmap to combat corruption. Its six strategic pillars emphasise active citizenry as a cornerstone of accountability. Citizens, he stressed, must not be passive recipients of governance but active custodians of democracy and reform. The Minister also underscored the government's commitment to protecting whistleblowers, empowering youth as champions of integrity, and fostering a generation dedicated to transparency and accountability.

The Minister highlighted reforms under the current administration aimed at enhancing ethical governance, including merit-based recruitment, continuous professional development, and digitising procurement processes to minimise irregularities. He emphasised that these reforms are fundamental to rebuilding public trust and confidence in the government. The Minister also called for stronger ethical oversight, transparent procurement practices, and prompt consequence management for corruption-related transgressions.

Calling for unity across sectors, the Minister urged civil society and labour unions to act as watchdogs, private businesses to adopt ethical practices, and academia to provide evidence-based solutions. He emphasised that corruption in public procurement, exacerbated by collusion between the public and private sectors, demands innovative approaches such as community monitoring and digital platforms for transparency.

In conclusion, the Minister appealed for the two-day dialogue to serve as a turning point from discussion to action, fostering strengthened partnerships and a renewed commitment to building a nation defined by integrity, accountability, and the rule of law. Invoking Nelson Mandela's spirit, he called on all sectors to work together to prevent and combat corruption, creating a legacy of integrity for all South Africans.

## SESSION 2: PRESENTATIONS

**NATIONAL ANTI-CORRUPTION ADVISORY COUNCIL PRESENTATION**
**Prof. F. Cachalia** *(Chairperson - NACAC)*

Prof. Firoz Cachalia, Chairperson of the NACAC, provided a comprehensive overview of the policy perspectives and foundational ideas that inform the Council's recommendations in the ongoing fight against corruption. Speaking at the National Dialogue on Anti-Corruption 2024, he contextualised South Africa's anti-corruption efforts within the broader framework of systemic reform, emphasising that achieving meaningful progress necessitates moving beyond simplistic remedies and focusing on integrated, long-term solutions.

Prof. Cachalia began by recognising the limitations of the current approach to corruption, which often centres on criminal law enforcement and punishment after the fact. While he affirmed the importance of accountability and the prosecution of individuals involved in corruption, he cautioned that relying solely on retrospective measures risks partial success and long-term failure. He emphasised the need to adopt a proactive, preventative approach that tackles the systemic and institutional roots of corruption.

Drawing on international experiences, such as Hong Kong's long-standing investment in anti-corruption over the decades, Prof. Cachalia emphasised that combating corruption necessitates ongoing effort, even after achieving initial successes. He highlighted that corruption in South Africa transcends the state capture era and appears in various forms throughout institutions, particularly within procurement processes. It is crucial to implement tailored, context-specific solutions, as corruption evolves in unique ways across jurisdictions.

Central to his address was systemic corruption, which goes beyond individual acts of misconduct to encompass institutional and societal factors that enable corruption to thrive. Prof. Cachalia argued that addressing systemic corruption requires strengthening governance structures, enhancing institutional resilience, and fostering active citizen participation. He emphasised the importance of public engagement, noting that citizens must hold leaders accountable and serve as vital agents of reform.

The Chairperson also highlighted the role of key institutions, including the Public Service Commission, the revenue authorities, the Auditor General, and the Reserve Bank, in the anti-corruption effort. He stressed the need to professionalise public service to improve its capacity to deliver essential services and rebuild trust in government.

Prof. Cachalia introduced the Council's proposal for establishing an **Office of Public Integrity,** a supporting new institution designed to address gaps in the current anti-corruption institutional framework. The OPI will build on the existing capacities and functions of the SIU and add further functions. He argued that the OPI should be granted constitutional protection to ensure its independence and resilience against political interference. He noted that the Council's recommendations aim to balance the need for new institutional capabilities with recognising existing resources and capacities.

In conclusion, Professor Cachalia reaffirmed the Council's commitment to advancing a whole-of-society approach to anti-corruption, emphasising collaboration across sectors and long-term investment in prevention. He called for the National Dialogue to act as a platform for meaningful engagement and the development of sustainable solutions. Professor Cachalia's remarks set the stage for discussions over the two-day event, positioning anti-corruption reform as a cornerstone of South Africa's democratic and developmental future.

## PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION PRESENTATION
**Prof. S. Fikeni** (*Chairperson – Public Service Commission*)
Prof. S. Fikeni, Chairperson of the Public Service Commission, delivered a thought-provoking speech addressing the pervasive issue of corruption and its impact on governance, trust, and society. He highlighted how corruption manifests in grand and subtle ways, eroding the moral fabric of institutions and undermining service delivery to the most vulnerable.

## KEY POINTS EMERGING:
- **Corruption as a Systemic Issue:** Prof. Fikeni emphasised that corruption goes beyond overt acts such as tender fraud to include everyday unethical behaviour, including the misuse of resources and neglect in serving the public interest. He highlighted society's moral and ethical decay, where even small compromises contribute to the wider issue.

- **Disconnect Between Leadership and the People:** He criticised the culture of excessive workshops and conferences, which often generate policies and reports without tangible outcomes. This disconnect fuels public distrust, as people on the ground perceive slight improvement in their lives despite substantial expenditures on high-level gatherings.

- **The Role of Leadership:** Prof. Fikeni states leadership should begin with personal integrity and self-reflection. He argued that leaders who preach ethics but fail to embody them lose credibility and further alienate the public.

- **Youth and the Future:** He lamented the impact of corruption on the youth, who suffer from unemployment, a lack of opportunities, and systemic failures. Society effectively robs the younger generation of their future by mismanaging resources and prioritising the interests of the elite.

- **A Call for Action:** Prof. Fikeni urged a transition from rhetoric to action, advocating for meaningful dialogue between leaders and citizens. He also emphasised the need for practical solutions, ethical leadership, and governance systems that prioritise the needs of ordinary people.

Prof. Fikeni's speech was a candid and passionate appeal for a fundamental transformation in governance underpinned by personal accountability, systemic reform, and a focus on the people's lived realities. He reminded the audience that true change begins with the individual and emphasised the need for ethical and empathetic leadership.

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### SIGNING THE ANTI-CORRUPTION PLEDGE

**Participants committed themselves to the following pledge:**

I pledge to be a responsible and honest citizen or resident neither pay nor take bribes, obey the law and encourage others around me to do the same, to treat public resources respectfully, never abuse any money entrusted to me care or position, act with integrity in all me dealings, in thought and action, an always act in the best interests of our country.

The pledge was physically signed by representatives of various stakeholders and role players to ensure their accountability for South Africa's service. All delegates were also encouraged to sign electronically in unison.

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## SESSION 3: PLENARY PANEL DISCUSSIONS

### STRATEGIC PILLAR 1:
**Active Citizenry-Improving Whistleblowing in South Africa**
Moderator - Ms T. Gqubule-Mbeki *(Councillor, NACAC)*

**Panellists:**
**Ms J. Fazenda** *(Ethics Institute South Africa)*
**Ms R. Narrandes** *(Southern Africa Director, PPLAAF)*
**Mr Henk Du Preez** *(Department of Justice and Constitutional Development)*

### MODERATOR'S INTRODUCTION
**Ms T. Gqubule-Mbeki**
Ms Gqubule-Mbeki began by honouring whistleblowers such as Babita Deokaran and Suna Venter, who made significant sacrifices to expose corruption, including losing their lives. She highlighted the hostile environment faced by whistleblowers, which ranges from harassment to assassination and called for robust protections. She credited PPLAAF, Whistleblower House, and NACAC for their advocacy and acknowledged the efforts of GIZ in supporting whistleblower support organisations and platforms for ongoing dialogue between these organisations. The moderator emphasised the need for legislative reforms to enhance whistleblower protections and outlined the roles of civil society and the media in supporting whistleblowers.

### Ms R. Narrandes (PPLAAF)
Ms Narrandes discussed whistleblowing from a human rights perspective, highlighting its importance for open democracy and good governance. She outlined PPLAAF's work in protecting whistleblowers across Africa, including:
- **Pro Bono Legal Support:** Providing legal defence against retaliation and offering guidance on approaching media and investigative journalists.

- **Legislative Advocacy:** Collaborating with civil society and policymakers to improve whistleblower laws, including the review of South Africa's Protected Disclosures Act.

- **Gaps in Current Frameworks:** Noting that existing protections are limited to employer-employee relationships, she advocated for:

- Extending protections to encompass all whistleblowers, irrespective of their employment status.
- Establishing an independent authority to receive disclosures.
- Implementing a transparent reward system with proper checks and balances.
- Criminalising retaliation and imposing severe penalties for harassment or victimisation.

- **Awareness Campaigns:** She stressed the importance of educating the public about whistleblowing to normalise it and reduce stigma, including targeted campaigns in schools to instil ethical values from a young age.

### Ms J. Fazenda (Ethics Institute South Africa)

Ms Fazenda focused on creating an ethical culture in organisations where whistleblowing becomes a last resort. She emphasised the need for proactive measures to encourage open dialogue about wrongdoing, such as:

- **Fostering Integrity Awareness:** Educating employees on ethical behaviour and creating safe spaces to report misconduct without fear of retaliation.

- **Celebrating Whistleblowers:** Shifting societal perceptions to see whistleblowers as role models who uphold organisational and societal values.

- **Practical Support:** Providing financial, psychological, and legal assistance to whistleblowers to ensure they are not left isolated or unemployable after speaking out.

She challenged institutions to examine their internal processes and actively recruit whistleblowers, recognising their integrity and commitment to transparency.

### Mr Henk du Preez (Department of Justice and Constitutional Development)

Mr Du Preez provided an update on the review of the Protected Disclosures Act (PDA) and the legislative reforms underway. Key highlights included:

- **Expanding the PDA's Scope:** Moving whistleblower protections beyond labour law to cover all individuals, including contractors and third parties.

- **Reverse Onus for Retaliation Cases:** Introducing legal presumptions that retaliation is linked to whistleblowing unless proven otherwise.

- **Stronger Confidentiality Measures:** Protecting the identities of whistleblowers to minimise risks.

- **Offences and Penalties:** Establishing specific criminal offences for retaliation or victimisation.

- **Support Mechanisms:** Creating a whistleblower champion role within institutions to oversee the effectiveness of whistleblower policies.

- **Costing and Public Consultation:** Before finalising the bill, he acknowledged the need for thorough socio-economic impact assessments and further public consultations.

### GENDER-SPECIFIC RETALIATION AGAINST WHISTLEBLOWERS

The panel examined how female whistleblowers encounter distinctive challenges, such as sextortion, sexual harassment, and threats to their family members. Ms Gqubule-Mbeki and Ms Narrandes emphasised the necessity for gender-sensitive provisions in the new legislation, which should include stricter penalties for gendered retaliation.

### JUDICIAL TRAINING AND AWARENESS

Drawing on international best practices, the panel recommended that judges and prosecutors receive specialised training on whistleblower cases, equivalent to the training required for handling domestic violence cases. This would ensure a nuanced understanding of the complexities surrounding whistleblowing.

### RECOMMENDATIONS AND NEXT STEPS

The panel emphasised the following actions:

- Implement a public awareness campaign to destigmatise whistleblowing and educate communities about its value.

- Expedite legislative reforms to strengthen whistleblower protections, including introducing a whistleblower support fund.

- Establish independent bodies to handle disclosures and ensure proper investigation and follow-up.

- Incorporate whistleblower protection into broader anti-corruption efforts within procurement systems and regulatory bodies.

- Promote collaboration between civil society, government, and the private sector to build a culture of transparency and accountability.

The discussion concluded with a call for a comprehensive societal approach to support whistleblowers and combat corruption. The panellists urged prompt legislative reforms, proactive organisational measures, and cultural shifts to restore trust in governance and create a safer environment for whistleblowers. They emphasised that protecting whistleblowers is a legal and moral imperative for safeguarding democracy and the nation's future.

### STRATEGIC PILLAR 1:
**Active Citizenry-Mainstreaming gender and youth into anticorruption strategies**
Moderator – Ms Z. Mqolomba *(Deputy Chairperson, Public Service Commission)*

**Panellists:**
**Ms Z. Mvelase** *(Founding Director, African Women Against Corruption Network)*
**Mr M. Kaohela** *(National Youth Coalition)*
**Ms O. Kgatse** *(Ahmed Kathrada Foundation)*

The panel, moderated by Ms Z. Mqolomba (Deputy Chairperson, Public Service Commission), examined the critical role of women and youth in anti-corruption efforts. The session focused on the intersection of corruption, gender, and youth and explored how these groups can serve as agents of change in combating corruption.

### KEY THEMES AND CONTRIBUTIONS
### Moderator's Introduction – Ms Z. Mqolomba
Ms Mqolomba began by highlighting the historical contributions of women and youth in the struggle against apartheid and the establishment of democracy in South Africa. She contended that corruption had become the defining challenge for these generations, urging their active involvement in anti-corruption initiatives. The discussion aimed to reflect on the impacts of corruption on women and youth and to explore ways they could unite to address it.

### Ms Z. Mvelase (African Women Against Corruption Network)
Ms Mvelase provided insights into the gendered nature of corruption, highlighting that corruption disproportionately affects women due to their lower socioeconomic power and greater reliance on public services. Key points included:
- **Gender and Corruption:** Women often face unique forms of corruption, such as sextortion, where they are coerced into offering sexual favours for access to services or opportunities.

- **Human-Centred Anti-Corruption Efforts:** Ms Mvelase advocated for a gender-sensitive approach, emphasising that corruption robs women and girls of their dignity and increases their vulnerability.

- **Policy Recommendations:** She called for anti-corruption strategies incorporating gendered lenses and victim-centred reporting mechanisms to address these specific challenges.

- **International Best Practices:** Highlighting global examples like Tanzania and Brazil, she stressed the importance of criminalising gender-based corruption and learning from other countries' experiences.

### Ms O. Kgatse (Ahmed Kathrada Foundation)
Ms Kgatse focused on the impact of corruption on young people, noting how systemic corruption limits access to education, employment, and public services. Key points included:
- **Youth as Victims and Agents of Change:** Corruption perpetuates inequality, forcing young people into compromising situations, such as bribing officials to access basic services.

- Engaging Youth at the Community Level: The foundation empowers young people to identify and combat corruption in their local contexts through youth clubs in 48 communities.

- Building Trust in Institutions: Ms Kgatse emphasised that addressing young people's disillusionment with political systems is essential to encourage greater participation in democratic processes.
- Creative Engagement: She emphasised the necessity of innovative methods, such as games and social media campaigns, to engage young people and raise awareness about anti-corruption efforts.

### Mr M. Kaohela (National Youth Coalition)

Mr Kaohela argued that youth activism is already evident in the region, pointing to examples such as the *Fees Must Fall* protests and anti-corruption movements in other African countries. Key points included:

- **Youth-Led Movements:** He described recent protests across Africa, including in Kenya and Nigeria, as evidence of youth dissatisfaction with corruption and systemic failures.
- **Intergenerational Dialogue:** He emphasised the importance of collaboratively fostering meaningful conversations between generations to address corruption.
- **Youth Inclusion in Governance:** Mr Kaohela called for youth representation in all anti-corruption structures, proposing a minimum of 50% inclusion to ensure their voices shape policies and strategies.
- **Global Context:** He suggested South Africa could witness a youth-driven "Arab Spring" if corruption and systemic inequalities are not addressed.

### RECOMMENDATIONS AND KEY TAKEAWAYS

- **Mainstreaming Gender and Youth in Anti-Corruption Strategies:** Develop gender-sensitive anti-corruption policies to address specific vulnerabilities, such as sextortion. Ensure that anti-corruption efforts include young people at all levels, focusing on building trust and engagement.
- **Victim-Centred Approaches:** Introduce reporting mechanisms that prioritise the safety and dignity of victims of gendered corruption. Criminalise gender-based corruption and ensure robust enforcement mechanisms.
- **Youth Engagement:** Use innovative tools like social media and community-based initiatives to educate and mobilise young people. Encourage intergenerational collaboration to bridge the gap between older and younger generations in addressing corruption.
- **Public Campaigns and Education:** Conduct national campaigns to normalise corruption, ethics, and whistleblowing discussions. Integrate ethics education into school curricula to foster a culture of integrity from an early age.

The panel concluded that integrating gender and youth into anti-corruption strategies is vital for creating an inclusive and effective framework. Collaboration across generations and sectors, along with targeted policy reforms, is essential for tackling the unique challenges faced by women and youth in the fight against corruption. Panellists called for ongoing advocacy, inclusive governance, and innovative engagement to ensure these groups play a pivotal role in safeguarding South Africa's democracy and social fabric.

## SESSION 4: PARALLEL PANEL DISCUSSIONS

### STRATEGIC PILLAR 2:
**Professionalisation of employees**
Moderator: Mr V.G.M. Mavuso *(Commissioner, PSC)*

**Panellists:**
**Ms Faith Nyaka** *(DDG, National School of Government)*
A representative from the Department of Public Service, DPSA

The discussion explored the professionalisation of the public sector as part of President Ramaphosa's vision for a capable, ethical, and development-oriented state. The panellists emphasised the importance of professionalism in building a public service staffed by skilled and ethical individuals, as Section 195 of the Constitution outlined. The session examined current initiatives and challenges in fostering professionalism, ethics, and accountability.

### Insights from Ms Faith Nyaka (National School of Government)

Ms Nyaka outlined the role of the National School of Government (NSG) in professionalising the public sector through training and capacity-building initiatives. She emphasised the importance of creating an ethical organisational ethos and noted that the NSG's programs are tailored to address the challenges faced by public servants at different levels of government.

She highlighted specific initiatives, including:
- **Ethics Training:** This program is compulsory for public servants and is available online to ensure accessibility for everyone, from entry-level staff to senior management.
- **Anti-Corruption Courses:** These programs are designed to enhance public servants' understanding of corruption and empower them to detect and report corrupt practices. While participation in these courses remains voluntary, they are integral to professionalisation efforts.
- **Sector-Specific Programs:** Ethics courses designed for local government and other public entities use real-life case studies to ensure the training is relevant and impactful.

Ms Nyaka acknowledged the challenges of changing the mindset of long-serving public servants who resist training. To address this, the NSG employs various approaches, such as webinars and flexible online programmes She noted that performance management systems help enforce compliance, as participation in specific programs is linked to performance reviews.

Regarding success stories, Ms Nyaka reported significant uptake of the compulsory ethics programs, with over 100,000 public servants completing the training. She also highlighted partnerships with professional bodies, such as training 5,700 internal auditors and 7,000 public servants in anti-corruption practices.

### INSIGHTS FROM MR DUMISANE HLOPHE, DDG DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE AND ADMINISTRATION.

Mr Dumisane Hlophe discussed the broader conceptual framework of professionalisation, emphasising the need to align public service roles with the developmental objectives of a democratic state. They argued that professionalisation must extend beyond technical skills to include a strong ethical foundation.
Key points included:
- **Institutionalizing Professionalisation:** The DPSA is working to embed professionalisation into legal and governance frameworks to ensure accountability. For example, directors-general are now required to include elements of professionalisation in their performance plans.
- **Performance Management:** The current system focuses too heavily on routine compliance rather than impact. The representative called for a shift toward impact-oriented planning that measures success through tangible outcomes, such as reduced clinic queues or improved access to public services.
- **Political-Administrative Interface:** They emphasised the importance of clearly defining the roles and responsibilities of political appointees and administrative staff to prevent interference. Although the Public Service Act and other frameworks provide guidance, greater emphasis should be placed on fostering mutual respect and alignment between political and administrative roles.

Hlophe also highlighted the significance of values in professionalisation, stressing the necessity of fostering a culture of ethical behaviour across all sectors of society, from educational institutions to public service.

### QUESTIONS FROM THE AUDIENCE AND RESPONSES

Audience members expressed concerns regarding the absence of preventative measures to combat corruption, the necessity for enhanced collaboration with professional bodies, and the exclusion of public entities from specific professionalisation initiatives.
- In response, Ms Nyaka acknowledged the delays in implementing partnerships with professional bodies and emphasised the need to move beyond advocacy to action. She assured participants that public entities are not excluded from NSG training programmes and that steps are being taken to ensure their full participation.
- Mr Dumisane Hlophe emphasised the need for public servants to belong to professional bodies that hold them accountable to higher ethical standards. They also highlighted plans to ensure that professionalisation is not optional but mandatory in public service.

Both panellists emphasised that professionalising the public sector requires a multifaceted approach, including legislative reforms, strong partnerships, and continuous training. While there have been notable

successes, such as widespread participation in ethics programmes, additional efforts are necessary to align performance management with meaningful service delivery outcomes. The session concluded with a call to action for all stakeholders to prioritise professionalisation and uphold the highest standards of ethics and accountability in the public sector.

## STRATEGIC PILLAR 3:
### Ethical governance and consequence management
Moderator: Adv. D. Dube *(Director-General, PSC)*

**Panellists:**
**Ms F. Rawat** *(Ethics Institute South Africa)*
**Dr. G. Wright** *(Business Against Crime)*
**Prof. T. Maseko** *(Head, WITS School of Governance)*
**Mr L. Lekgetho** *(COO, Special Investigating Unit)*

The session focused on the twin challenges of governance failures and weak consequence management in the public sector. Panellists explored the role of ethical leadership, effective consequence management, training, and collaboration in fostering an ethical public service culture.

### Ms F. Rawat (Ethics Institute South Africa)
Ms Rawat outlined the Ethics Institute's approach to fostering an ethical culture, emphasising that it is an ongoing process rather than a one-off event. She introduced the Ethics Management Framework, which identifies three essential components: ethical leadership, governance structures, and ethics management systems.

Rawat emphasised the significance of ethical leadership as the cornerstone for establishing the right tone at the top. She underscored the disparity between compliance and culture in public institutions, pointing out that while technical compliance (e.g., gift declarations) is effectively managed, instilling ethical values remains challenging.

She also pointed to the Ethics Institute's collective action programs, such as the Local Government Ethical Leadership Initiative, which developed a Code for Ethical Leadership. This work has revealed that many leaders lack the governance competence to make sound decisions. To address this, Rawat called for targeted, deliberate training programs that equip public servants with the tools to navigate ethical dilemmas and apply consistent consequence management.

### Prof. T. Maseko (WITS School of Governance)
Prof. Maseko argued that ethical behaviour must be fully integrated into organisational culture and regarded as everyone's responsibility, not just whistleblowers. He emphasised the need for training to clarify ethical conduct and equip individuals with tools for handling complex ethical dilemmas.

Maseko criticised the lack of effective consequence management, which fosters the perception that unethical behaviour is acceptable. He highlighted Parliament's failure to hold the executive accountable during the state capture era, describing it as a missed opportunity to uphold ethical governance at the highest level.

The professor proposed a dual approach: instilling an ethical culture through training and governance reforms while holding individuals accountable for violations to discourage further misconduct. He concluded that without accountability, unethical behaviour becomes endemic.

### Mr L. Lekgetho (Special Investigating Unit)
Mr Lekgetho provided a law enforcement perspective, stressing that the SIU focuses on recovering stolen funds and ensuring public resources are used ethically. He identified greed as a significant driver of corruption and emphasised the necessity for prevention programmes, beginning with the teaching of ethical values to children.

He stressed the critical role of consequence management in restoring public trust. Without timely and visible enforcement actions, the public loses confidence in institutions, and potential whistleblowers are

discouraged from reporting corruption. Lekgetho advocated for speeding up investigations and prosecutions to serve as a deterrent.

Challenges highlighted included resource constraints, the transfer of cases to other agencies, and reliance on proclamations to initiate investigations. Lekgetho stressed the significance of systemic recommendations to tackle root causes and prevent repeat offenses. He also pointed out the SIU's success in utilising the Special Tribunal to litigate and recover funds directly.

### Dr. G. Wright (Business Against Crime)

Dr. Wright discussed the private sector's role in combating corruption, emphasising that businesses often enable unethical practices in the public sector. He argued that ethical leadership must be uniform across public and private sectors.

He described Business Against Crime's two-fold approach: representing the business community in anti-corruption initiatives and partnering with other sectors, including law enforcement and academia. This collaboration provides specialised skills and resources to support investigations without compromising the independence of law enforcement agencies.

Wright underscored the significance of learning from previous failures, such as the involvement of auditing firms in state capture. He suggested utilising international best practices through collaborations with organisations like the UN and OECD to enhance governance systems and ensure ethical business practices.

### KEY THEMES AND INSIGHTS

- **Ethical Leadership:** Leadership establishes the tone for organizational culture. Ethical leadership should be prioritised at every level, from political leaders to frontline public servants.
- Consequence Management: Lax enforcement of consequences for unethical behaviour undermines public trust. Prompt and visible accountability is crucial to discourage misconduct and rebuild confidence in governance.
- **Training and Capacity Building:** Training programs must focus on ethical decision-making, governance competence, and practical tools for navigating ethical dilemmas. Academia plays a vital role in developing a new generation of ethical leaders.
- **Collaboration and Partnerships:** Tackling systemic corruption necessitates a whole-of-society approach, involving partnerships among government, business, civil society, and international organisations.
- **Integrity Testing and Recruitment:** To ensure ethical governance from the outset, competency-based recruitment and integrity testing for public servants and politicians are needed.
- **Root Causes and Prevention:** Tackling systemic issues, such as the politicisation of public administration and insufficient oversight, is essential to establishing a resilient governance system.

The session ended by stressing the urgent need to foster ethical governance and implement strong consequence management practices across all levels of the public sector. A common thread throughout the discussion was the significance of promoting a culture of ethical leadership, which acts as the foundation for building trust and accountability within institutions.

Panellists advocated for a proactive approach to integrating ethical values into the core of organizations, ensuring that ethics is not left to chance but is deliberately cultivated through clear policies, consistent enforcement, and targeted training. The issue of consequence management was emphasized as a cornerstone for addressing misconduct, focusing on holding wrongdoers accountable quickly and visibly to restore public confidence in governance.

Collaboration emerged as a crucial recommendation, highlighting the necessity for partnerships among government, business, civil society, and academic institutions to pool expertise and resources in the fight against corruption. By aligning efforts and sharing best practices, stakeholders can tackle systemic governance failures and foster ethical conduct.

**STRATEGIC PILLAR 4:**
**Credible, transparent procurement system**
Moderator: Ms Barbara Schreiner *(Councillor, NACAC)*

**Panellists:**
**Ms M. Ntswahlala** *(Chief Procurement Officer, National Treasury)*
**Mr Thato Mahlamvu** *(Head of Specialised Audit, Office of the Auditor General)*
**Mr M. Msani** *(Community Facilitator, Asivikelane)*
**Dr. S. Meny-Gibert** *(Public Affairs Research Institute)*

## CHALLENGES IN PUBLIC PROCUREMENT

Mr Mahlamvu offered insights into systemic weaknesses in procurement processes that facilitate corrupt practices. He highlighted recurring issues noted in the Auditor General's General Report for the PFMA, including:

- **Procurement irregularities** and insufficient due diligence have resulted in unqualified contractors providing essential services.

- **The misuse of emergency procurement processes** to circumvent standard procedures under the pretext of urgency.

- **Bid rigging and collusion** in specifications and scoring disadvantage competent suppliers while favouring pre-selected ones.

- **Failures in contract management** and questionable payment patterns, including weekend or late-night transactions.

- **Inadequate governance frameworks,** coupled with underutilised internal audit mechanisms.

Ms Ntswahlala highlighted the National Treasury's ongoing efforts to address these issues. She stressed the importance of **procurement planning and internal control mechanisms** to ensure transparency. While progress has been made in certain areas, as evidenced by the OECD's MAPS project, significant challenges persist in **contract management** and **data collection**, particularly at the municipal level. She also touched on Treasury's collaboration with SOEs to improve procurement practices.

## CIVIL SOCIETY AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT PERSPECTIVES

Mr Msani provided a grassroots perspective, describing how Asivikelane works to improve basic service delivery in disadvantaged communities. He shared examples of procurement-related corruption in outsourced municipal services, particularly sanitation and water delivery, where contractors solicit bribes from residents. Asivikelane employs community monitoring tools to track procurement procedures and advocate for accountability. However, obtaining information remains a significant challenge due to outdated and inaccessible municipal records.

Dr. Meny-Gilbert emphasised that procurement fraud lies at the heart of South Africa's corruption crisis, affecting state capacity. She advocated for **professionalising supply chain management** as an anti-corruption measure and improving the connection between procurement officials and end users. Dr. Meny-Gilbert highlighted the opportunities provided by the new Public Procurement Act to enhance transparency but cautioned that fragmented systems and weak local governance could hinder its impact.

## KEY DISCUSSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The discussion addressed several critical issues and recommendations:

- Blacklisting Non-Compliant Suppliers: Participants expressed concerns regarding the insufficient action taken against companies with established corruption records.

- Developing an Electronic Procurement System: The Treasury formally confirmed its commitment to implementing an e-procurement system within a year. The panellists highlighted the importance of developing this system locally to meet specific needs and enhance transparency.

- Capacity Building: The panellists concurred on strengthening skills and resources within procurement offices, especially at the local government level.

- Ethical Governance: Participants emphasised the need to incorporate a robust ethics framework in procurement processes to combat corruption effectively.

## PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND ACCESS TO INFORMATION

The session highlighted the significance of involving communities in procurement oversight. Access to procurement information was emphasized as a means of empowering citizens to hold officials accountable and enhance service delivery. There were calls to incorporate community input in developing new systems and frameworks.

The session concluded with a unified call to action: establishing a transparent and accountable procurement system necessitates a collective effort from government, civil society, and the private sector. By addressing systemic weaknesses, enhancing governance, and fostering trust, South Africa can improve service delivery and combat corruption at all levels.

## SESSION 5: REFLECTING ON THE NATIONAL ANTI-CORRUPTION STRATEGY (NACS, 2020-2030)

**STRATEGIC PILLAR 5:**
**Strengthening Anti-corruption Agencies**
Moderator: Mr D. Lewis *(NACAC Councillor)*

**Panellists:**
**Mr E. Kieswetter** *(Commissioner, SARS)*
**Gen. S.G. Lebeya** *(DPCI (Hawks) Head)*
**Adv. A. Mothibi** *(Head, Special Investigating Unit)*
**Adv. S. Batohi** *(National Director of Public Prosecutions)*

This session featured key leaders from South Africa's anti-corruption agencies. Moderated by Mr David Lewis, the session addressed the intricacies of corruption investigations, systemic challenges, and the critical need for institutional strengthening.

## COMPLEXITY OF PROSECUTIONS AND INVESTIGATIONS

General Lebeya provided a comprehensive account of the investigation process for complex corruption cases. He explained how cases typically start with affidavits and are escalated to the Hawks when they exhibit significant complexity. Such investigations involve a collaborative approach, often necessitating over 1,000 affidavits and extensive documentation. He emphasised the VBS Mutual Bank case, which includes 27 separate matters and more than 189 affidavits. Investigators frequently require expert input, such as forensic accounting, to trace financial flows and unravel intricate networks. These processes are time-consuming and costly, highlighting the need for specialised skills within law enforcement agencies.

Advocate Batohi elaborated on the challenges of prosecuting high-profile corruption cases, emphasising that the standard of proof for criminal cases ("beyond a reasonable doubt") is significantly higher than for inquiries like the Zondo Commission. While the commission exposed the extent of corruption, it did not provide prosecutable evidence, necessitating law enforcement to build cases from the ground up. Investigations are further complicated by the global nature of corruption networks, which require mutual legal assistance from foreign jurisdictions, often resulting in delays.

She also identified the rise of "Stalingrad tactics," where accused individuals utilise frivolous legal applications to delay court proceedings. These tactics, she argued, pose a significant threat to the rule of law and require decisive judicial intervention to mitigate.

## ENHANCING INVESTIGATIVE CAPACITIES

Mr Kieswetter highlighted SARS's pivotal role in combating corruption-related financial crimes. He highlighted using advanced data analytics, artificial intelligence, and machine learning to sift through 30 petabytes of data—equivalent to eight years of continuous Netflix viewing. These tools empower SARS to detect fraudulent financial activities and identify organised crime syndicates. However, he noted that SARS remains underfunded and confronts internal corruption, with some employees colluding with taxpayers to evade detection.

He emphasised that SARS collaborates closely with other agencies, such as the NPA and Hawks, sharing

intelligence under Section 73 of the Tax Administration Act. This partnership has led to significant tax recoveries and successful prosecutions. However, he expressed concern over the high costs and time required to analyse complex data, urging for increased investment in forensic capabilities and IT infrastructure.

Advocate Mothibi discussed the SIU's systematic approach to corruption investigations. He explained that over 90% of the SIU's investigations involve procurement irregularities, highlighting the urgent need to address governance failures and control weaknesses in state institutions. The SIU has enhanced its capacity by integrating data analysts, statisticians, and cyber forensics experts into its investigative teams. These skills enable the SIU to identify systemic vulnerabilities and recommend reforms to improve government processes and reduce corruption risks.

## SYSTEMIC CHALLENGES AND RECOMMENDATIONS
The panellists identified several systemic issues that hinder anti-corruption efforts:
- **Understaffing and Resource Constraints:** Both the Hawks and NPA function at a diminished capacity. General Lebeya disclosed that the Hawks are operating at merely 51% of their necessary capacity, hindering their effectiveness in investigating and prosecuting cases.
- **Stalling Tactics in Courts:** Advocate Batohi urged for more robust judicial action against Stalingrad tactics that delay justice and undermine public trust.
- **Whistleblower Protection:** Despite the vital role of whistleblowers, many fear for their lives and families due to insufficient protections, deterring them from stepping forward.
- **Legislative Gaps:** The absence of provisions for unexplained wealth orders and inadequate enforcement mechanisms for systemic recommendations obstruct efforts to recover illicit assets and avert future corruption.

The panellists recommended several key reforms:
- **Strengthening Legislative Frameworks:** Advocate Batohi called for amendments to the Prevention of Organized Crime Act (POCA) to incorporate unexplained wealth orders, allowing the state to confiscate assets when their origins cannot be justified.
- **Improving Procurement Legislation:** Mr Kieswetter emphasized the need to modernize outdated procurement laws under the PFMA to boost agility and efficiency.
- **Binding Systemic Recommendations:** Advocate Mothibi urged for making the SIU's systemic recommendations binding to ensure accountability and promote long-term institutional reform.

## WISH LISTS FOR ENHANCING ANTI-CORRUPTION EFFORTS
The panellists shared their top priorities to strengthen their agencies:
- **General Lebeya:** Complete empowerment of the Hawks and establishing a dedicated NPA unit to prosecute serious corruption cases.
- **Advocate Batohi:** Improved ethical leadership, governance reforms, and the recruitment of specialized skills to strengthen the NPA's investigative and prosecutorial capabilities.
- **Mr Kieswetter:** Increased funding for SARS to modernise infrastructure, invest in forensic tools, and retain skilled personnel.
- **Advocate Mothibi:** A revised funding model for the SIU to guarantee financial sustainability and enforceable systemic recommendations.

The session concluded with a powerful message: South Africa's anti-corruption efforts require a whole-of-society approach. Ethical leadership, systemic reforms, and enhanced inter-agency collaboration are crucial to tackling corruption and rebuilding public trust. While significant progress has been made since the era of state capture, much work remains to ensure accountability and uphold the rule of law.

**STRATEGIC PILLAR 6:**
**Protecting the vulnerable sectors and improving service delivery**
Moderator: Ms K Pillay *(Councillor, NACAC)*

**Panellists:**
**Mr P. Maharaj** *(Executive, Special Investigating Unit)*
**Ms C. Moitse** *(DDG: Counter Corruption & Security Services, Home Affairs)*
**David Maimela** *(Director of Executive Support in the Office of the Principal and VC, UNISA)*

The session on Strategic Pillar 6, moderated by Ms K. Pillay (NACAC Councillor), highlighted corruption's pervasive impact on vulnerable sectors and its detrimental effects on service delivery.

## KEY THEMES AND SECTORAL VULNERABILITIES

**Ms Connie Moitse** outlined the Department of Home Affairs' strategies for tackling corruption, primarily targeting internal officials implicated in fraudulent activities. She emphasised that systemic failures, such as unintegrated databases and a lack of real-time interdepartmental communication, create opportunities for corruption. She also attributed vulnerabilities to South Africa's socio-economic environment, noting an influx of foreign nationals seeking to exploit weak systems alongside South Africans facilitating such fraud for personal gain. The lack of patriotism, exemplified by citizens selling their identities, exacerbates this challenge.

The Public Protector's Office underscored the importance of focusing on vulnerable sectors such as public procurement, healthcare, law enforcement, and mining. These sectors directly affect fundamental human rights and service delivery, making them particularly susceptible to corruption. She highlighted the necessity of outreach programmes to foster public trust, as the current caseload of 9,000 is significantly lower than the estimated scale of corruption. Collaboration between anti-corruption agencies and increased funding was identified as essential for enhancing oversight and public confidence in democratic processes.

**Mr P. Maharaj** discussed the SIU's sectoral approach, which identifies high-risk areas such as healthcare, local government, and border management. He highlighted the success of the Health Sector Anti-Corruption Forum in tackling PPE procurement fraud during COVID-19. The forum's proactive initiatives—such as educating whistleblowers, raising awareness of procurement regulations, and involving stakeholders from government, labour, and civil society—demonstrated the effectiveness of an inclusive, preventive model.

**Mr David Maimela** provided a comprehensive perspective, linking corruption to societal and structural issues. He emphasised that corruption in South Africa is deeply connected to the lack of a strong middle class and ongoing inequalities. Maimela advocated for a pragmatic approach focusing on reducing, rather than eliminating, corruption. He also pointed out the vulnerabilities in political funding, warning that unchecked private sector influence threatens democracy.

## QUESTIONS AND KEY AUDIENCE CONCERNS

- **Systemic Weaknesses at Home Affairs:** Several audience members questioned the DDG regarding accountability within Home Affairs. They highlighted weak internal controls, a lack of oversight, and ineffective processes as major contributors to corruption. Ms Moitse acknowledged systemic failures and outlined efforts to strengthen governance through integrated systems and enhanced accountability measures. She highlighted ongoing efforts to cultivate a culture of patriotism and ethical behaviour among officials and citizens.

- **Perceived Ineffectiveness of the SIU:** Concerns were raised about the SIU's slow pace in addressing corruption cases, particularly at the municipal level, where officials misuse public funds. Mr Maharaj responded by emphasising resource constraints and the SIU's reliance on proclamations to initiate investigations. He highlighted ongoing efforts to expedite cases and strengthen inter-agency collaboration to enhance effectiveness.

- **Professionalizing Politics:** An audience member suggested professionalising politics to curb corruption, proposing that politicians with alternative careers might be less likely to engage in corrupt practices. Mr Maimela endorsed this notion, emphasising the need to build capacity and promote ethical leadership in governance.

- **Observations from Civil Society:** Representatives voiced concerns regarding the accessibility and efficiency of Home Affairs' processes. They urged for greater transparency and streamlined procedures to minimise corruption risks.

## PROPOSED SOLUTIONS
- **Strengthening Internal Controls:** Home Affairs must unify its systems and improve oversight mechanisms to address gaps that allow corruption.
- **Empowering Whistleblowers:** Anti-corruption bodies must enhance protections and establish clear channels for whistleblowers to report fraud safely.
- **Enhanced Collaboration:** Increased cooperation among government, civil society, and business is necessary to address corruption comprehensively.
- **Targeted Public Education:** Campaigns aimed at fostering patriotism and educating citizens about the effects of corruption may diminish public complicity.
- **Institutional Reforms:** Professionalising politics and reforming procurement laws can tackle systemic vulnerabilities.

The panellists collectively emphasised the importance of a whole-of-society approach, recognising that sustainable progress requires participation from all sectors of society. They also highlighted the need to balance addressing high-profile corruption cases with efforts to strengthen systems and protect vulnerable communities from corruption's pervasive impact.

## SESSION 6: CLOSING PLENARY

### Closing Remarks by Ms B. Schreiner (Councillor, NACAC)
Ms Schreiner concluded the session by calling for a focus on preventative action in the fight against corruption. She emphasised that the insights shared over the two days must lead to concrete actions rather than merely ending with discussions. Key themes from the event included the critical need for whistleblower protection, enhanced collaboration across government sectors, and the significance of individual leadership in tackling corruption. Ms Schreiner underscored the necessity of moving from "talking" to "doing," highlighting that the dialogues held during this forum must spur meaningful change.

### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS: MS SCHREINER EXTENDED HEARTFELT GRATITUDE TO THE FOLLOWING:
- **The Presidency:** For its strategic support, with special acknowledgement of DG Baleni and her team.
- **The Minister and the Department of Public Service and Administration:** For their role in facilitating the event.
- **GIZ:** For consistent technical support, making both the national dialogue and its preparatory events feasible.
- **The Public Service Commission:** For embodying the whole-of-society approach in combating corruption and NACAC collaboration.
- **Speakers, Panellists, and Moderators:** For their exceptional contributions and expertise shared throughout the discussions.
- **Communication Teams:** GCIS, Corruption Watch, and the SIU, for their extensive effort in raising awareness about the event and its objectives.
- **NACAC Secretariat Team:** Special recognition goes to Sefura Matlala, Shirley Maboane, Olwethu Tau, Thokozani Mntungwa, and Victor Naidu for their tireless work behind the scenes.
- **PSC Secretariat Team:** DDG Matome Malatsi, Moroko Mabowa, Faith Mashikinya, and Qaqambile Mkosana, for their unwavering dedication to ensuring the event's success.

# DAY 2: PROCEEDINGS

## SESSION 1: PLENARY SESSION

**REFLECTIONS FROM DAY ONE**

### Opening Remarks by Ms B. Schreiner (Councillor, NACAC)

Ms Schreiner welcomed participants to Day 2 of the national dialogue, reflecting on the successes of Day 1. She emphasised the groundwork laid in addressing the systemic nature of corruption in South Africa, particularly within the context of extreme inequalities and severe poverty. She highlighted key discussions from Day 1, including:

- The establishment of the Office of Public Integrity is a topic to further explore today.

- Thematic breakaway sessions on whistleblowing, gender and youth involvement, professionalisation of the civil service, procurement, consequence management, protecting vulnerable sectors, and strengthening law enforcement agencies.

Ms Schreiner noted the room's collective resolve, emphasising the need for **less talk and more action**. She reiterated that the fight against corruption involves both punitive measures and preventative strategies. The latter requires systemic changes, including promoting **good governance, transparency, and accountability** to shift the culture of corruption.

Quoting Nelson Mandela, she reminded the participants that *"It always seems impossible until it's done."* She encouraged participants to be innovative, bold, and collaborative in their discussions and solutions.

### MENTIMETER ENGAGEMENT

Fatima Rawat from the Ethics Institute provided an overview of the Mentimeter tool, a platform for participants to share thoughts and reflections throughout the day. Highlights from Day 1's feedback included:

- Calls for collaboration, accountability, and consequence management.

- A strong interest in **ethical leadership** and the roles of **youth and gender** in the fight against corruption.

- Emphasis on moving from dialogue to **implementation.**

### VALUES, MORAL REGENERATION – FAITH-BASED ORGANISATIONS IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION
### Rev. M. Molo (General Secretary, South African Council of Churches)

Rev. Molo commenced by recognising the profound moral crisis confronting South Africa, highlighted by the corrosive effects of corruption on society. He recounted an interaction with a former President, who suggested that the church's role was merely to pray and refrain from political involvement. However, the South African Council of Churches (SACC) perceives prayer as a call to action and societal accountability, rather than a passive gesture. He reflected on the devastating effects of corruption, sharing a poignant story about his mother's disillusionment with political leadership. This example illustrated the loss of trust in institutions, highlighting how corruption erodes societal values and faith in governance.

Rev. Molo commended the efforts of the National Anti-Corruption Advisory Council (NACAC) and the Public Service Commission, emphasising their vital role in preserving the nation's character and values. Nevertheless, he warned that the battle against corruption is complex, as even corrupt individuals frequently adopt the rhetoric of anti-corruption, thereby further eroding trust.

### FAITH-BASED CONTRIBUTIONS TO COMBATING CORRUPTION

Rev. Molo outlined three key roles for faith-based organisations in addressing corruption:
- **Speaking with Moral Clarity and Courage:** Faith communities must clearly articulate that corruption is a crime and a sin against God. In a nation where 80% of the population identify as Christian, this moral framing is critical to galvanising action. Corruption should be seen as an affront to divine and societal laws.

- **Highlighting Corruption's Victims:** Corruption is not a victimless crime. Its real impact is felt by the poor and vulnerable who rely on public services. For instance, theft from the health sector deprives the sick of vital medication, and embezzlement in education robs children of opportunities.

- **Holding Leaders Accountable:** Faith organisations must animate society's moral outrage and demand higher ethical standards from public officials. Leaders should not hide behind legal technicalities but embody accountability and transparency.

Rev. Molo drew on biblical texts to illustrate the urgency of combating corruption. He invoked the prophet Micah's condemnation of rulers who oppress the innocent and accept bribes, paralleling South Africa's current challenges.

**Whistleblower Protection and Community Solidarity:** Whistleblowers are critical in exposing corruption, often at significant personal risk. Rev. Molo called for collective societal support for whistleblowers, advocating for their protection and a shift in public perception to view their actions as moral courage. The SACC is exploring ways to integrate whistleblowers into local faith communities, ensuring they are not left to stand alone.

**A Values Crisis, Not Just a Legal One:** Rev. Molo stressed that South Africa faces a profound values crisis. While legal measures are essential, the root cause of corruption is the erosion of societal values. He cited academic works that highlight the moral vacuum left after the fall of apartheid and called for a renewed focus on building a values-based society.

He urged South Africans to embrace integrity, not simply to avoid punishment but because it is inherently right. Rev. Molo concluded by encouraging collective action, reminding the audience that despite the challenges, hope and possibility must drive the fight against corruption: "The character of our nation is at stake. It is not just about prosecuting the corrupt but creating a society where doing the right thing is the norm, even when no one is watching."

Rev. Molo's call to action underscored the critical role of faith-based organisations in fostering moral regeneration, advocating for systemic change, and supporting those who courageously stand against corruption.

## THE ROLE OF THE NATIONAL PROSECUTING AUTHORITY IN IMPLEMENTING STATE CAPTURE RECOMMENDATIONS
**Adv. Andrea Johnson, Head of the Investigating Directorate (ID), NPA**

Advocate Andrea Johnson provided an overview of the National Prosecuting Authority's (NPA) critical role in addressing state capture, emphasising the need for collective action and moral conviction in the fight against corruption. She highlighted the establishment of the Investigating Directorate (ID), made permanent in August 2024, and its mandate to address state capture-related cases.

## KEY THEMES AND DEVELOPMENTS
- **Collaborative Efforts Across Law Enforcement:** Johnson emphasized the collaborative nature of the NPA's work with the Directorate for Priority Crime Investigation (DPCI), Special Investigating Unit (SIU), and other agencies. To ensure effective case progression, a hybrid model was introduced, pairing DPCI investigators with ID prosecutors. She acknowledged law enforcement partnerships as crucial in advancing the battle against corruption.

- **Scope of State Capture Cases:** The ID handles 124 of the 202 state capture recommendations and 57 additional cases where the Zondo Commission ran out of time to make recommendations. Currently, 201 individuals and 67 entities are facing charges. This workload highlights the task's complexity and scale, especially given the ID's ongoing recruitment and resource challenges.

- **Strategic Prosecutions and Investigations:** The ID takes a multifaceted approach, concentrating on corruption, money laundering, and related offences. In addition to criminal charges, it partners with the Companies and Intellectual Property Commission (CIPC) to declare individuals as delinquent directors, and collaborates with Treasury to blacklist entities involved in corruption. These actions prevent repeat offences and safeguard public resources.

- **Challenges in Digital and Financial Forensics:** Johnson acknowledged the significant financial and time constraints posed by digital and financial forensic investigations, which are essential for prosecuting complex corruption cases. She highlighted ongoing efforts to enhance state forensic capabilities under the National Priority Crimes Committee.

- **Partnerships with the Private Sector:** The NPA recognises that corruption often involves both the public and private sectors. It is collaborating with the Presidential Joint Initiative on Crime and Corruption (JICC) to tackle this issue. Plans include establishing a digital evidence unit to expedite data analysis and case preparation.

- **Balancing Speed and Complexity:** Johnson addressed public demands for quicker resolutions, explaining that state capture cases are intricate and require thorough investigation. She cautioned against prioritising speed over justice, emphasising the need for accurate and comprehensive prosecutions.

- **Media and Civil Society's Role:** While advocating for transparency, Johnson urged the media and civil society to focus on constructive criticism, avoid amplifying distractions, and avoid allowing accused individuals to manipulate narratives. She called for reporting that supports, rather than undermines, the fight against corruption.

Adv. Johnson concluded with a commitment to justice and equality, acknowledging the personal and professional sacrifices involved in combating corruption. She reaffirmed her oath to serve the people of South Africa, emphasising the importance of unity in dismantling state capture: "This is a noble fight—not one I am prepared to die for, but one I intend to live for, so that justice prevails and our people can live with the dignity they deserve."

## SESSION 2: PANEL DISCUSSION

### LAUNCH OF THE NACAC MID-TERM REPORT
**Prof. F. Cachalia, Chairperson, National Anti-Corruption Advisory Council (NACAC)**

Prof. Cachalia presented the NACAC Mid-Term Report, outlining the council's progress, recommendations, and vision for combating systemic corruption in South Africa. His address reaffirmed the moral and constitutional imperatives of the anti-corruption fight, emphasising the council's mandate to establish an independent anti-corruption body and deepen public trust.

### KEY THEMES AND MANDATES
- **Mandate and Approach:** NACAC's mandate, articulated in President Ramaphosa's 2021 State of the Nation Address, is to oversee the implementation of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy (NACS) and recommend the establishment of an independent statutory body, the Office of Public Integrity (OPI). Prof. Cachalia clarified that the OPI would not duplicate existing structures but address gaps in tackling systemic corruption, working alongside the DPCI, Investigating Directorate (ID), and NPA.

- **Systemic Corruption vs. Individual Corruption:** The OPI is envisioned to address systemic corruption, which differs from individual corruption as it involves networks of public and private actors undermining institutions for political and financial gain. Prof. Cachalia stressed that dismantling systemic corruption requires a proactive, preventative approach rather than solely relying on post-incident prosecution.

- **Recommendations for the OPI,** Prof. Cachalia outlined key recommendations for the OPI, including:
  - **Legislation and Establishment:** Advancing legislation to create the OPI as a Chapter 9 institution.

  - **Integration with the SIU:** Absorbing the SIU's powers, resources, and staff to expedite the OPI's operationalisation.

  - **Independent Investigation Powers:** Allowing the OPI to initiate investigations without presidential proclamations.

  - **Collaboration:** Establishing a prosecutor-led investigation model, working closely with the NPA, SARS, and other entities.

  - **Asset Recovery:** Expanding civil recovery and granting the Special Tribunal powers for criminal forfeiture.

- **Public Hearings and Education:** Convening public hearings and promoting anti-corruption awareness.
- **Strategic Role:** Driving the NACS rollout, advising the government on anti-corruption policy, and monitoring progress.
- **Urgency and Feasibility:** Time and resource constraints necessitate a practical approach. The OPI could become operational within a year by utilising the SIU's infrastructure. Prof. Cachalia emphasised that delays in establishing the OPI would hinder progress in tackling the systemic nature of corruption.

## BROADER RECOMMENDATIONS
- **Strengthening Existing Agencies:** The council proposed enhancing the capacity and resources of the NPA, DPCI, and SIU to ensure a cohesive anti-corruption architecture.
- **Public Engagement and Collaboration:** A whole-of-society approach was stressed, involving civil society, business, and government.
- **Legislative Reforms:** Reviewing and amending existing laws to streamline investigations and prosecutions while safeguarding constitutional rights.

## PROGRESS AND FUTURE STEPS
Prof. Cachalia emphasised NACAC's extensive engagements, including provincial roadshows, public education campaigns, and collaborations with stakeholders such as the Auditor-General, SARS, and civil society. Upcoming steps involve presenting the OPI proposal to the Justice, Crime Prevention, and Security (JCPS) Cluster and drafting a Cabinet memorandum with legislative recommendations.

Prof. Cachalia concluded with a call to action, urging political will and public support to establish the OPI and enhance anti-corruption mechanisms. He emphasised the feasibility and urgency of the recommendations, framing them as essential to safeguarding South Africa's constitutional democracy.

## SUMMARY: Q&A SESSION ON THE LAUNCH OF NACAC MID-TERM REPORT
- **Independence and Political Protection:** Participants expressed concerns regarding the independence and political vulnerability of law enforcement leaders, including the heads of the Hawks and the NPA. Questions focused on how the Office of Public Integrity (OPI) could operate effectively without broader systemic reforms to protect leadership from political interference. The response emphasised the importance of safeguarding the OPI as a Chapter 9 institution with constitutional protections, similar to the Public Protector and Auditor-General, while also maintaining a degree of executive accountability to avert potential misuse of power.

- **Role and Coordination of the OPI:** Clarifications were sought on whether the OPI would serve as a supervisory body or collaborate with existing law enforcement agencies (LEAs). The council clarified that the OPI would not control other agencies but would work in partnership with them. Emphasis was placed on mechanisms to enhance coordination, particularly for joint investigations and case management, to prevent jurisdictional overlaps and delays.

- **Capacity Challenges:** Concerns were raised about establishing a new body while existing agencies face resource constraints. The council acknowledged these challenges, emphasising that the OPI's funding model must tackle inefficiencies, such as the SIU's reliance on payments from investigated entities. The council also called for a coordinated approach to ensure all agencies are adequately resourced without encouraging competition for limited resources.

- **Systemic vs. Individual Corruption:** The OPI's unique role in addressing systemic corruption was reiterated, distinguishing it from agencies focusing on criminal prosecutions. The OPI's proactive, preventative measures—such as public education, data analytics, and advisory roles—were highlighted as crucial to closing loopholes and reducing opportunities for corruption.

- **Procurement and Blacklisting:** A participant raised the issue of blacklisting corrupt suppliers, directing criticism at the National Treasury for its perceived reluctance to enforce these measures. The council emphasized the need for legislative amendments to render blacklisting decisions binding and practical, ensuring that corrupt entities are excluded from future procurement processes.

- **Reviving the Scorpions Model:** There was a suggestion to reinstate the Scorpions. The council clarified

that the Investigating Directorate (ID) under the NPA effectively mirrors the Scorpions' prosecution-led investigation model. The focus now is on enhancing the ID and other agencies to strengthen this approach rather than creating a new entity.

- **Public Education and Values:** The council emphasised the importance of public education in promoting a culture against corruption. By incorporating ethical values into school curricula, the OPI could tackle corruption at its roots and cultivate a society that is less tolerant of unethical behaviour.

The council reiterated that the fight against corruption requires a holistic approach, strengthening the entire anti-corruption architecture while establishing the OPI to address systemic corruption and prevention. Participants were encouraged to continue these discussions in the breakaway sessions to explore solutions and practical steps for implementation.

## SESSION 3: PARALLEL BREAKAWAY SESSIONS

### GROUP 1: ESTABLISHMENT OF THE OFFICE OF PUBLIC INTEGRITY
The session on the proposed Office of Public Integrity (OPI) commenced with an overview of NACAC's recommendations and the reasoning behind establishing this new institution. In the initial phase of NACAC's work, the chairperson detailed how extensive consultations were conducted with civil society, governmental bodies, and international partners to grasp South Africa's anti-corruption landscape. The proposed OPI would address critical deficiencies in this framework, augmenting the capabilities of the Special Investigating Unit (SIU) while broadening its mandate to encompass systemic corruption, preventive measures, and enhanced public accountability.

The discussion centred around the necessity for a robust anti-corruption framework that aligns with international best practices, such as the Jakarta Statement on Principles for Anti-corruption Agencies and STIRS principles (specialized, trained, independent, resourced, security of tenure). These principles emphasise the importance of permanence, independence, clear mandates, and adequate resources for anti-corruption bodies.

### CONTEXT AND EXISTING FRAMEWORK
The facilitator explained that South Africa's current anti-corruption system operates on a multi-agency model involving institutions such as SAPS, the DPCI (Hawks), the SIU, the Financial Intelligence Centre (FIC), and the Public Protector. Although these agencies address corruption with different mandates, the system suffers from overlapping responsibilities, inadequate coordination, and a lack of coherent leadership in combating systemic corruption. Each entity functions within its own silo, often resulting in inefficiencies and delays in prosecuting high-profile cases.

The OPI, by contrast, would aim to fill this gap by focusing on systemic corruption, a more insidious and complex form of corruption that erodes institutional integrity. It would operate as a Chapter Nine institution, giving it independence from the executive and aligning it with bodies like the Public Protector and the Auditor-General.

### PROPOSED ROLE AND FUNCTIONS OF THE OPI
The facilitator delved into the core functions envisioned for the OPI. Its primary role would involve conducting civil investigations into systemic corruption, with search and seizure powers to gather evidence. Unlike the SIU, the OPI would not rely solely on presidential proclamations to initiate investigations but would have the authority to act independently.

A critical function of the OPI would be its preventative and educational mandate. Public education campaigns, curriculum design, and institutional training would aim to build resilience against corruption within public sector organisations. Additionally, the OPI would conduct systemic reviews of public institutions, offering voluntary and mandatory assessments to identify vulnerabilities and improve processes. These reviews would result in binding recommendations to ensure corrective actions are implemented.

The OPI would also convene public hearings, providing a platform for communities to raise concerns and hold officials accountable. This approach seeks to engage the public directly and foster greater trust in anti-corruption efforts.

## CHALLENGES AND CONSIDERATIONS

The session highlighted several challenges in implementing the OPI. One recurring theme was the need for stronger coordination among law enforcement agencies. While mechanisms like the Section 17 coordination framework exist, they remain inactive, contributing to delays in case management and resource allocation. Participants stressed that effective collaboration between the OPI, the Hawks, and IDAC would be essential for the success of the broader anti-corruption framework.

Another key concern was resourcing. It was widely acknowledged that the success of the OPI—and indeed all anti-corruption agencies—hinges on adequate funding and skilled personnel. However, the competition for resources among existing institutions like SAPS, SIU, and NPA complicates this issue. The facilitator emphasised the need for a funding model that would sustain the OPI and ensure that other agencies are adequately equipped to perform their roles.

The session also explored how the OPI would avoid duplicating the work of existing agencies while maintaining clear jurisdictional boundaries. The facilitator explained that while the OPI would focus on systemic corruption and civil recoveries, criminal cases would still be referred to the NPA for prosecution, ensuring a complementary relationship between institutions.

## PATH FORWARD

The session concluded with a call for further dialogue and refinement of the proposal. Participants agreed that the OPI must not only address gaps in the current anti-corruption system but also operate as a transparent, accountable, and effective institution. Achieving this will require broad stakeholder engagement, legislative support, and a commitment to tackling the structural and resource challenges faced by South Africa's anti-corruption agencies. By integrating systemic reviews, preventative measures, and public accountability mechanisms, the OPI has the potential to reshape the country's fight against corruption. However, its success will depend on establishing a cohesive anti-corruption framework in which all agencies work together to protect the integrity of public institutions.

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## GROUP 2: STRENGTHENING LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

The session focused on proposals for strengthening South Africa's law enforcement agencies, with particular attention given to the investigative and prosecutorial processes within the anti-corruption framework. The discussion highlighted the need to address systemic challenges in coordination, capacity, and independence across institutions such as the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA), the Directorate for Priority Crime Investigation (Hawks), and the Special Investigating Unit (SIU).

## KEY THEMES AND ISSUES DISCUSSED

- **Role of the Office of Public Integrity (OPI):** Participants examined how the proposed OPI would integrate into the anti-corruption framework. Although the OPI is envisioned as an enhanced version of the SIU, concerns were voiced about its potential redundancy with other agencies and whether it should possess the authority to generate criminal dockets. Several participants contended that systemic corruption investigations, a core focus of the OPI, should remain separate from criminal prosecutions, which are more effectively managed by the NPA or Hawks.

- **Coordination Among Agencies:** A recurring theme was the ineffective coordination among law enforcement agencies. Existing mechanisms, such as the high-level committee established under Section 17 of the SAPS Act, faced criticism for being inactive or unproductive. Participants stressed the necessity for a robust case management system to streamline investigations and prevent the duplication of efforts. The proposed OPI could play a key role in facilitating this coordination.

- **Institutional Independence:** The discussion highlighted the significance of protecting the autonomy of law enforcement agencies. Participants pointed out the NPA's current reliance on the Department of Justice for administrative duties, such as hiring and resource allocation. This situation was considered a major obstacle to operational independence. Suggestions included establishing the NPA as its own accounting officer and formalising transparent appointment processes for its leadership.

- **Capacity Constraints and Resource Competition:** The session highlighted the significant resource and capacity challenges faced by law enforcement agencies. For example, the Hawks operate at just 51% of their personnel capacity, while the NPA lacks specialised prosecutors for corruption cases. Participants emphasised the need for targeted recruitment, training, and retention of forensic investigators and other specialists. They also discussed utilising existing resources, such as former Scorpions members.

- **Challenges of Political Will and Executive Support:** A significant concern was the evident lack of political will to fully support law enforcement agencies. The delayed processing of NACAC's recommendations by the presidency and the absence of key executive figures at the conference were viewed as signs of insufficient commitment. Participants called for an open political discussion on empowering anti-corruption institutions and securing the necessary resources to combat corruption effectively.

- **Role of Intelligence and Data Analysis:** Another critical topic was the role of crime intelligence in supporting law enforcement. Participants observed that the current intelligence structures, including state security and SAPS crime intelligence, are ineffective and require urgent reform. Suggestions included integrating data analytics and intelligence-led investigations to enhance the detection and prevention of corruption.

## RECOMMENDATIONS AND PATH FORWARD
- **Strengthening Independence:** Ensure the NPA has its own accounting officer and formalise transparent processes for the appointment and dismissal of senior law enforcement officials.

- **Enhancing Coordination:** Develop a robust case management and coordination mechanism that focuses on law enforcement agencies' operational alignment and excludes broader government bodies.

- Building Capacity: Prioritize the recruitment and training of specialized investigators and prosecutors and explore options for reintegrating experienced former Scorpions personnel.

- **Securing Resources:** Tackle the funding challenges faced by law enforcement agencies, especially the SIU's dependence on payments from investigated institutions. Create sustainable funding models for the OPI.

- **Political and Executive Support:** Urge for a stronger executive commitment to anti-corruption initiatives, including prompt action on NACAC's recommendations and necessary legislative reforms

- **Reforming Crime Intelligence:** Urgently address the dysfunction within crime intelligence structures, with the potential for completely rebuilding these agencies.

The session concluded with a call for practical, immediate reforms to strengthen law enforcement agencies. Participants emphasized that without genuine political support and effective coordination, even the best-designed systems and institutions would struggle to achieve their objectives. There was also a recognition of the need to engage civil society in holding the government accountable and ensuring that anti-corruption efforts remain a national priority.

## GROUP 3: PUBLIC EDUCATION
The session explored strategies to bolster the Office of Public Integrity's (OPI) preventative arm using public education. An "all-of-society" approach was central to the discussion, emphasising the need for collaborative action across societal sectors.

## KEY THEMES AND PROPOSALS
- **An all-of-society Approach:** Corruption impacts everyone, regardless of race, religion, or ideology. Public education should foster unity by involving schools, workplaces, religious institutions, and communities in anti-corruption initiatives.

- **Integrating Anti-Corruption Education Across Learning:** Embed anti-corruption education at every stage of the learning journey. Age-appropriate and context-specific modules should promote ethics, values, and civic responsibility.

- **Focus on Rights and Gender Sensitivity:** Public education must highlight citizens' rights and remedies to empower action. Incorporate a gender-sensitive approach to address specific issues like sextortion and protect vulnerable groups.

- **Effective Communication Strategies:** Simplify language to ensure anti-corruption messaging resonates with diverse communities. Avoid jargon and use culturally relevant terms to build trust and understanding. Employ communications professionals to design targeted, strategic messages for different audiences.

- **Reaching Marginalized Communities:** Rural areas and informal settlements often lack oversight and become hotspots for corruption. Adopt a "leave no one behind" principle, ensuring education reaches underserved regions.
- **Transparency and Public Procurement:** Provide accessible information on public procurement processes, including contracts, timelines, and deliverables. Create feedback mechanisms for communities to report discrepancies in service delivery.
- **Interactive and Participatory Citizenry:** To encourage active citizen engagement, utilise tools such as integrated development plans (IDPs). Establish community-based anti-corruption forums to educate and mobilise grassroots action.
- **Role Models and Champions:** Identify relatable role models, especially for young people, to inspire ethical behaviour and reinforce positive values.
- **Mediums for Dissemination:** Use a mix of traditional and modern platforms, including radio dramas, TV programs (Soul City, Love Life), and social media. Partner with local radio stations to deliver community-specific content.
- **Ethics, Values, and African Identity:** Revisit curricula to emphasise African values, ethical behaviour, and integrity. Promote self-reflection and counter the influence of Western paradigms on societal norms

## RECOMMENDATIONS
- **Targeted Content:** Customise anti-corruption messages for specific audiences to ensure relevance and engagement.
- **Youth-Focused Partnerships:** Work with agencies specialising in youth engagement to amplify the message.
- **Transparent Reporting:** Combine helplines into a single, dependable reporting platform to guarantee action and uphold public trust.
- **Private Sector Collaboration:** Encourage businesses to sponsor anti-corruption campaigns, including public service announcements.
- **Action-Oriented Campaigns:** Introduce public education initiatives within institutions like SAPS to discourage bribery and promote accountability.

Public education can transform how society perceives and combats corruption through clear messaging, inclusive outreach, and sustained community engagement. By embedding integrity and accountability in every sector, South Africa can foster a culture that resists corruption and promotes equitable development.

## SESSION 4: FEEDBACK TO PLENARY

### KEY REFLECTIONS AND THE WAY FORWARD
**Prof. F. Cachalia (Chairperson, NACAC)**

- **Clarifications and Addressing Misconceptions**

  o **Presidential Proclamation:** Prof. Cachalia clarified that while the Office of Public Integrity (OPI) would retain the presidential power to initiate investigations into systemic corruption, this power would be subject to rationality tests. However, the OPI would have independent authority to initiate investigations, a significant step forward. He acknowledged the potential for abuse but noted the current president's effective use of this power.

  o **Avoiding Duplication:** Regarding concerns about duplication with existing institutions, he emphasised that NACAC has been careful to ensure that the mandates of existing law enforcement agencies remain intact. While overlaps in a multi-agency system are inevitable, collaboration will be crucial to addressing systemic corruption, a critical gap in the current framework.

- **Urgency and Timing:** Prof. Cachalia stressed the importance of bold, pragmatic action. He noted the urgency of implementing the OPI without attempting to create a costly, entirely new institution. Building on existing structures ensures quicker results, as systemic corruption requires immediate and decisive responses.

- **Achieving Consensus:** The dialogue marked a turning point in building consensus around an all-of-society approach to combating corruption. This strategy includes strengthening law enforcement, fostering public education, and ensuring robust systemic reform.

- **Institutional Strengthening:** Prof. Cachalia emphasised that the OPI should be regarded as part of a broader effort to enhance the entire anti-corruption infrastructure, including agencies such as the Directorate for Priority Crime Investigation (DPCI) and the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA). Sufficient funding, resources, and capacity building are crucial for these institutions to effectively fulfil their mandates.

- **Public Education and Cultural Shift:** A holistic anti-corruption strategy must include public education to foster an anti-corruption culture, particularly in marginalized communities. Prof. Cachalia noted the need for innovative communication strategies and public engagement to ensure societal buy-in.

- **Immediate Actions:** He shared NACAC's proactive steps, including drafting a cabinet memorandum and implementation plans for the OPI. To expedite its establishment, NACAC is also working on funding models, legislative frameworks, and resourcing requirements.

- **Reflections on Democratic Governance:** Prof. Cachalia urged participants to remain optimistic, emphasising South Africa's democratic foundations and the collective agency of its citizens. The fight against corruption requires national unity, leveraging the strengths of civil society, government, and other stakeholders.

**Call to Action:** Prof. Cachalia concluded by calling for the release of NACAC's midterm report as a discussion document, fostering transparency and public input. He reiterated the urgency of building consensus and taking swift, strategic action to combat corruption comprehensively.

## VOTE OF THANKS
**Ms Z. Mqolomba (Deputy Chairperson, PSC)**
Ms Z. Mqolomba appreciated the insightful presentations given during the two-day National Anti-Corruption Dialogue and recognised the significance of collective efforts in combating corruption and fostering a culture of integrity.

## KEY ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS
- **Minister of Public Service and Administration:** Ms Mqolomba recognized the Minister's commitment to anti-corruption initiatives and his emphasis on the political will to address corruption. She noted his call for an all-of-society approach to restore trust in public institutions.

- **The Anti-Corruption Pledge:** She highlighted the significance of the anti-corruption pledge, emphasising personal and organizational accountability. The pledge serves as a commitment to ethical conduct and active participation in the fight against corruption.

- **Professor Somadoda Fikeni:** She commended Prof. Fikeni for his reflections on the hidden nature of corruption and the importance of individual integrity as a foundation for societal change.

- **Professor Yunus Carrim:** Ms Mqolomba noted Prof. Carrim's focus on closing gaps in the anti-corruption framework and his call for decisive action to prevent further erosion of public trust.

- **Panel Discussions:** She praised the diversity and depth of the panel discussions, especially the session on youth and women in anti-corruption efforts, which emphasised their vital role as agents of change.

## KEY TAKEAWAYS
- **An All-of-Society Approach:** The fight against corruption requires collective action, integrating government, civil society, and ordinary citizens. A multi-agency approach is necessary for systemic impact.

- **Youth and Gender Inclusion:** Anti-corruption strategies must prioritise youth and gender perspectives and ensure their active involvement in decision-making processes.

- **Action Over Dialogue:** Ms Mqolomba emphasised translating discussions into tangible outcomes to benefit marginalised communities.

- **Building Consensus:** She emphasised the need for national consensus on anti-corruption strategies, remarking that the NACAC's focus on implementation showcases progress through action and collaboration.

## CONCLUSION

Ms Mqolomba thanked the 500+ attendees for their active participation, which reflects the widespread commitment to rebuilding South Africa's ethical foundations. She urged all stakeholders to continue championing anti-corruption efforts in their respective spheres of influence.
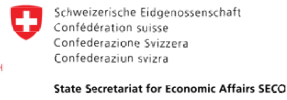
# NOTES

# THE NATIONAL DIALOGUE ON ANTI-CORRUPTION

## 2024 REPORT

### ANNEXURES

# THE NATIONAL DIALOGUE ON ANTI-CORRUPTION

## PROGRAMME

9 – 10 DECEMBER 2024

PRESENTED BY NACAC

**NACS**
National
Anti-Corruption
Strategy

# DAY 1
## 9 DECEMBER 2024

**THEME:** Uniting with Youth Against Corruption: Shaping Tomorrow's Integrity

| 07:30- 09:00 | Accreditation and Registration | All delegates |
|---|---|---|

| TIME | TOPIC | SPEAKER |
|---|---|---|
| **SESSION 1: OPENING PLENARY** | | |
| **Facilitator: Ms. Y. Bacus (Commissioner, PSC)** | | |
| 09:00 - 09:10 | The National Anthem | All delegates |
| 09:10 - 09:20 | Opening and welcome | **Nkosikazi N. Mhlauli** (Deputy Chairperson, NACAC) |
| 09:20 - 09:30 | Remarks & Introduction of Minister in the Presidency | **Ms. P. Baleni** (Director-General and Secretary of the Cabinet) |
| 09:30 - 09:50 | Keynote Address | **Hon. Ms. K. Ntshavheni**, MP (Minister in the Presidency) |
| 09:50 - 10:00 | Reading & signing of the pledge | **Ms. S. Matlala** (Secretariat, NACAC) |
| **SESSION 2: PLENARY** | | |
| **Facilitator: Ms. B. Schreiner (Councillor, NACAC)** | | |
| 10:00-10:20 | Public Service Commission Presentation | **Prof. S. Fikeni** (Chairperson – Public Service Commission) |
| 10:20- 10:40 | National Anti-Corruption Advisory Council Presentation | **Prof. F. Cachalia** (Chairperson - NACAC) |
| **TEA BREAK** | | |
| **SESSION 3: PLENARY PANEL -** REFLECTING ON THE NATIONAL ANTI-CORRUPTION STRATEGY (NACS, 2020-2030) | | |
| **Facilitator: Prof. M. Makhanya (Commissioner, PSC)** | | |
| 11:00 – 12:00  Venue: O.R. Tambo | **Strategic Pillar 1: Active Citizenry-Improving whistleblowing in South Africa** *Moderator -* **Ms. T. Gqubule-Mbeki** *(Councillor, NACAC)* | **Panelists:** • **Adv. D. Mashabane** (Director-General, DoJ&CD) • **Ms. J. Fazenda** (Ethics Institute South Africa) • **Ms. R. Narrandes** (Southern Africa Director, PPLAAF) |
| 12:00 – 13:00  Venue: O.R. Tambo | **Strategic Pillar 1: Active Citizenry-Mainstreaming gender and youth into anti-corruption strategies** *Moderator –* **Ms. Z. Mqolomba** *(Deputy Chairperson, Public Service Commission)* | **Panelists:** • **Ms. Z. Mvelase** (Founding Director, African Women Against Corruption Network) • **Mr. M.Kaohela** (National Youth Coalition) • **Ms. O. Kgatse** (Ahmed Kathrada Foundation) |

| LUNCH BREAK (13:00 – 14:00) | |
|---|---|

## SESSION 4: PARALLEL PANEL DISCUSSIONS
### REFLECTING ON THE NATIONAL ANTI-CORRUPTION STRATEGY
(NACS, 2020-2030)

| 14:05- 15:00 | **Venue:** O.R. Tambo Room | **Venue:** King Shaka Room |
|---|---|---|
| | **Strategic Pillar 2: Professionalisation of employees**<br>*Moderator:* **Mr. V.G.M. Mavuso** *(Commissioner, PSC)*<br><br>• **Dr. B. Maja** (DDG, National School of Government)<br>• **Ms. Y. Makhasi** (Director-General, DPSA)<br>• **Ms. R. Ajam** (General-Secretary, FEDUSA) | **Strategic Pillar 3: Ethical governance and consequence management**<br>*Moderator:* **Adv. D. Dube** *(Director-General, PSC)*<br>**Panelists:**<br>• **Ms. F. Rawat** (Ethics Institute South Africa)<br>• **Dr. G. Wright**, (Business Against Crime)<br>• **Prof. T. Maseko** (Head, WITS School of Governance)<br>• **Mr. L. Lekgetho** (COO, Special Investigating Unit) |
| | **Venue:** Cape Town Room | |
| | **Strategic Pillar 4: Credible, transparent procurement system**<br>*Moderator-* **Adv. N. Khumalo** *(Councillor, NACAC)*<br>**Panelists:**<br>• **Ms. M. Ntswahlala** (Chief Procurement Officer, National Treasury)<br>• **Mr. Thato Mahlamvu** (Head of Specialised Audit, Office of the Auditor General)<br>• **Mr. M. Msani** (Community Facilitator, Asivikelane)<br>• **Dr. S. Meny-Gilbert** (Public Affairs Research Institute) | |

## SESSION 5: PARALLEL PANEL
### REFLECTING ON THE NATIONAL ANTI-CORRUPTION STRATEGY
(NACS, 2020-2030)

| 15: 05 – 16:00 | **Venue:** O.R. Tambo Room | **Venue:** King Shaka Room |
|---|---|---|
| | **Strategic Pillar 5: Strengthening anti- corruption agencies**<br>*Moderator: Mr. D. Lewis (NACAC Councillor)*<br><br>• **Mr. E. Kieswetter** (Commissioner, SARS)<br>• **Gen. S.G. Lebeya** (DPCI (Hawks) Head)<br>• **Adv. A. Mothibi** (Head, Special Investigating Unit)<br>• **Adv. S. Batohi** (National Director of Public Prosecutions) | **Strategic Pillar 6: Protecting the vulnerable sectors and improving service delivery**<br>*Moderator: Ms. K Pillay (Councillor, NACAC)*<br><br>• **Mr. P. Maharaj** (Executive, Special Investigating Unit)<br>• **Mr. Elphus Ndou** (DCoG)<br>• **Adv. K. Gcaleka** (Public Protector)<br>• **Ms. C. Moitse** (DDG: Counter Corruption & Security Services, Home Affairs)<br>• **Prof. P. LenkaBula** (Vice Chancellor, UNISA) |

| TEA BREAK | |
|---|---|

## SESSION 6: CLOSING PLENARY

### Facilitator: Ms. B. Schreiner (Councillor, NACAC)

| 16:15 - 16:45 | Reflections, Vote of thanks and Closure |
|---|---|

# DAY 2
## 10 DECEMBER 2024

**PROGRAMME DIRECTOR:**
MS. B. SCHREINER (COUNCILLOR, NACAC)

| TIME | TOPIC | SPEAKER |
|------|-------|---------|
| **SESSION 1: PLENARY SESSION** | | |
| 08:00 – 09:00 | Arrival and Registration | All delegates |
| 09:00 – 09:05 | Introduction of Keynote speaker | **Mr. A. Searle** (Commissioner, PSC) |
| 09:05 - 9:30 | Keynote speaker | **Hon. Inkosi Mzamo Buthelezi**, MP (Minister for the Public Service and Administration) |
| 09:30 – 09:50 | Values, moral regeneration – faith-based organisations in the fight against corruption | **Rev. M. Molo** (General Secretary, South African Council of Churches) |
| 09:50 – 10:00 | The role of the NPA in the implementation of State Capture Recommendations | **Adv. S. Batohi** (National Director of Public Prosecutions) |
| **SESSION 2: PANEL DISCUSSION** | | |
| 10:00 – 11:00 | Launching of the NACAC Mid-Term Report | NACAC Councillors |
| **TEA BREAK** | | |
| **SESSION 3: PARALLEL BREAKAWAY SESSIONS** | | |
| 11:30 – 13:00 | **NACAC WORKSTREAMS** | **GROUP FACILITATORS** |
| | **Group 1:  Establishment of the Office of Public Integrity** **Venue:** OR Tambo Room | **Mx. S. Phamodi** (Councillor, NACAC) |
| | **Group 2:  Strengthening the Law Enforcement Agencies** **Venue:** King Shaka Room | **Mr. D. Lewis** (Councillor, NACAC) |
| | **Group 3: Public Education** **Venue:** Cape Town Room | **Mr. N. Dolopi** (Councillor, NACAC) |
| **LUNCH 13:00 – 14:00** | | |
| **SESSION 4: FEEDBACK TO THE PLENARY** | | |
| 14:00 – 15:00 | Feedback session and Q&A | Rapporteurs |
| 15:00 – 15: 15 | Key reflections and way forward | **Prof. F. Cachalia** (Chairperson, NACAC) |
| 15:15 – 15:30 | Vote of Thanks | **Ms. Z. Mqolomba** (Deputy Chairperson, PSC) |
| **Thank you for attending the National Dialogue on Anti-Corruption 2024** | | |

## NOTES:

*"No one is born a good citizen; no nation is born a democracy. Rather, both are processes that continue to evolve over a lifetime. Young people must be included from birth. A society that cuts itself off from its youth severs its lifeline; it is condemned to bleed to death. You are the guardians of that lifeline. Nurture it; develop it; give it strength."*

Koffi Anan

## Introduction and Background

The Ahmed Kathrada Foundation's Youth Activism Programme, in partnership with GIZ South Africa's Transparency, Integrity and Accountability Programme (TIP), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), and the National Anti-Corruption Advisory Council (NACAC) hosted a two day National Youth Dialogue on Anti-Corruption on the 16th and 17th of November at Birchwood Hotel and OR Tambo International Conference Centre. This conference was a lead-up event to the National Dialogue on Anti-Corruption in December where stakeholders from around the country and from all walks of life will converge to validate the NACAC's proposals on anti-corruption reform. This event was dedicated to hearing and acknowledging the voices of the youth, and the outcomes of this event are to be presented at that National platform.

## Problem Statement

Since the adoption of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy (NACS), there have been some important developments. The NACAC has been appointed by the President with the mandate of to advising the President on the implementation of the NACS as well as the recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry into State Capture. In addition, they are tasked with hosting an annual 'National Summit' on the theme of anti-corruption.

1

However, observations have been made, thus far, of the absence of youth voices in discussions with the NACAC, except in relation to youth as a target audience for communications work. It is an unfortunate truth that youth have not been consulted in the development of the NACS, even though the consequences of today's corruption will be felt in years to come. That means that there may be elements of the NACS that could impact young people. There also may be factors and issues that affect youth that have not been considered. Thus, as the momentum and energy to fight corruption continues to build in South Africa, it was essential to room for youth to be part of the important conversations and decisions that will be made on South Africa's anti-corruption architecture and programmes that are intended to be executed in the near future.   This time around, the National Anti-Corruption Advisory Council wants to ensure that the youth voice is heard, that inputs from the youth are included and that the creativity and ideas of young people are harnessed.

Thus theYouth Activism Programme (YAP), a flagship programme of the Ahmed Kathrada Foundation (AKF), will run a longer-term programme on anti-corruption and accountability. This program is designed to strengthen and deepen democracy through the promotion of active citizenship amongst organised youth clubs in various communities across the province of Gauteng and with the broader National Youth Coalition Network. The Programme adopts a community-based membership and theory of change model that centers on creating and developing an active citizenry as a mechanism to deepen democracy and give voice (and skills and capacity) to young people for constructive engagement and challenging contemporary societal challenges.
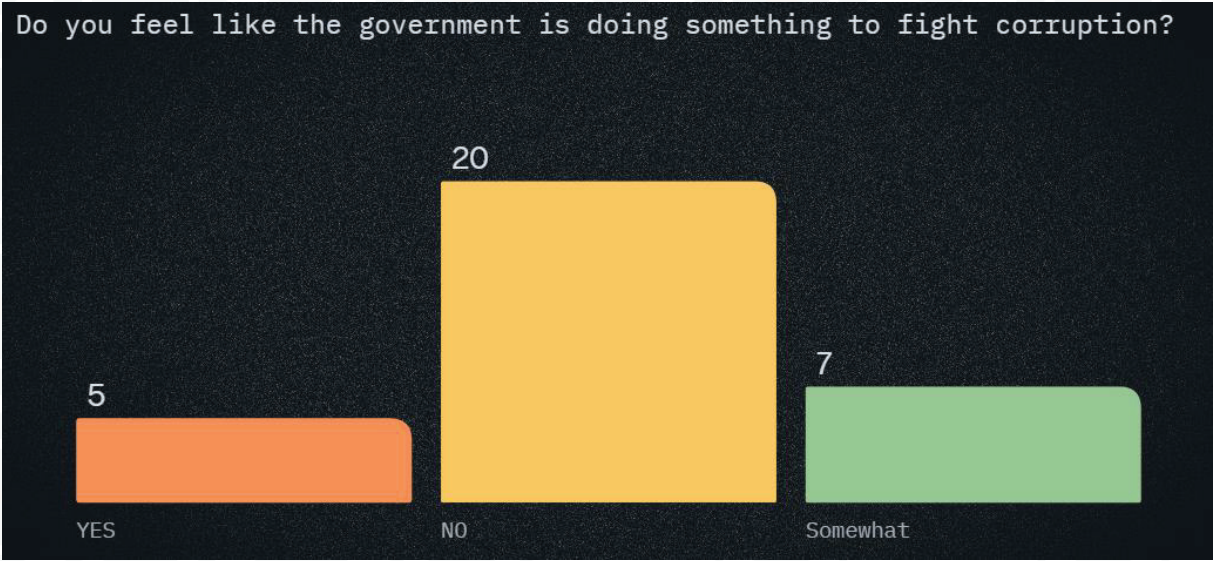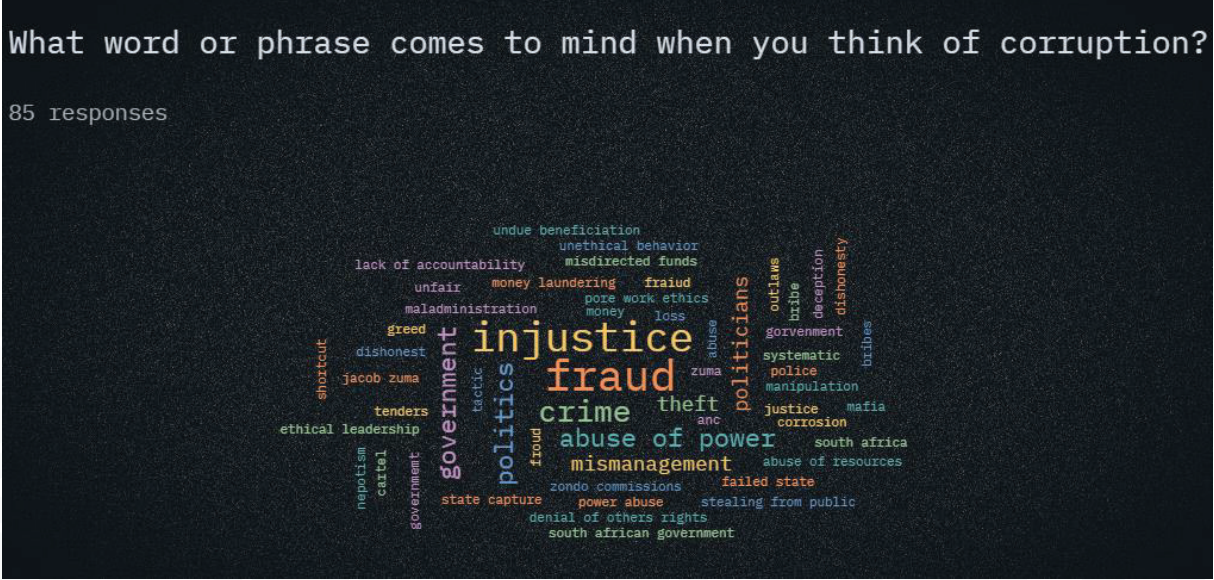
**National Youth Dialogue on Anti-Corruption Outcomes**
The event convened over 65 youth persons from around the Gauteng province. There were introductory presentations from Sabeehah Motala from TIP who gave a welcome, framing and context of the event.

This was followed by a Mentimenter exercise that was facilitated by Esihle Dube from TIP and Moeketsi Kaohelo from the National Youth Council. Given that the NACS adopts a whole-of-government, whole-of-society approach, the Mentimeter sought to gather the youth's perspectives on the role of organized business (private sector), civil

2

society, and the youth themselves in fighting corruption. However, first they had to get a sense of their understanding of corruption and on whether they feel like the government is doing something to fight corruption. These were some of the findings:

# What can organised business (private sector) do to fight corruption?

Be compliant with anti-corruption laws and policies!

Act with transparency

Build coalition with the community on the ground to validate efforts against corruption

comply with csi + csr

Skills development in the community and world issues uplifting

Invest in anti.corruption initiatives

Be transparent...

Seeing the accused that are foung guilty being sent to prison

Job creation

invest in intel

Normalise the use of BlockChain Tech to help make the flow of money more Transparent and Accountable

be accountable

Skills development and implementation

Fight change

Hold the accountable for the misconduct

Implement stringent methods to hold government accountable and ensuring the culprits pay for their actions

They can organise programs where they involve youth and also empower them and then talk with the government to do advocacy for people so that they will know what is needed by people

Support government

Have strict policies on issues of corruption.

Corruption is taking place in private sector aswell. They cant do much because they participate in the corruption in the country.

1. Create awareness 2. Hold people who participate in corruption accountable

humanise cooparations again - all they care about is revenue

Be more inclusive when holding anti corruption campaigns.Creat more job opportunity in the sector as I believe corruption also starts from poverty

They must actively engage in strategies to fight corruption from their side because often they are the corruptors, which is not spoken about enough.

Practise a High Standard themselves, which they dont. Fund initiatives to fight corruption, as GTZ is doing.

4

They must actively engage in strategies to fight corruption from their side because often they are the corruptors, which is not spoken about enough.

Practise a High Standard themselves, which they dont. Fund initiatives to fight corruption, as GTZ is doing.

Be responsible

Hold people accountable Strengthen integrations leadership Involved ethical trainings

Hold those who are corrupt accountable

Invest more on their safety and support the community in fitting corruption.

Be leaders in the business space and allow for more room for small businesses and society to grow with them and not just have a monopoly over the economic sector. Corruption stems from what we see.

Teach the youth the advantages of anti corruption, and the disadvantages of corruption in that case we will have less corruption in the next coming generation

Promote ethical behavior. Provide support to people

Not add to the corruption (being partners in corruption, allowing it to become normalised in society). Change narratives/mindsets to make ethical behavior key.

What they can do i think they should start working with the government by adding job opportunities for people so that unemployment rate be solved

Start with reporting themselves for corruption

Normalise ethical standards and promote them in their general business practice

Help the justice system be strong and firm. Provide training and educational workshops on right and responsibilities.

5

# What can civil society do to fight corruption?

Report Corruption activities

whistle blow!

Be united

Educate and advocate.

Work with all stakeholders and hold both government and private sector accountable through activism!

Discourage , corrupt people , report corrupt cases

Report on activities of corruption

Use the available spaces to hold our leaders accountable to the promises they made when we voted for them.

Hold government accountable

Report those who are corrupt and hold them accountable

Create a greater support system

Civil society should be in the forefront in protecting wistleblowers and keep corrupt officials to account.

To not allow to the corrupt leader

Highlight institutions and means available to the public to Report and Flag Corrupt activities in their communities

Practice fairness

Provide people with more education and provide safety skills

Have organisations that has no fear or favour to no one when it comes to accountability towards government

Align with Trusts, Foundation and relevant Conscientious bodies to support the anti corruption efforts as a collective utilising law and constitution as a main barometer

Change the constitution to uplift the black community in democracy

unite campaigns on corruption not work in silos as a sector

Speak out, question Be corageous in the face of corrup leaders at all levels. Demand transparency and accountability from leaders. Expose corrup practises. Avoid being corrupted

Whistle blow

6

44

Appreciate whistle blowers

What they can do they should start by being Transparent and face the truth they should mobalise more Leadership in every province and face the government all political parties should do they duties

Lobby to hold State and private actors to account. Promote a new culture of ethical promotion and accountability.

try to not enable corrupt activities

Form coalition with all conscientious bodies, institution and community using the law and constitution as a barometer

Report especially IDP municipal core of the corruption

Ensure that communities are educated on these issues and empowered in a safe environment to voice out any issues around corruption.

Report corruption

Trouble shoot where there's a gap that can open a window for corruption Engage in structures to combating corruption

Continue with the CPF which is crime prevention forum and also work with the law enforcement because I believe the are still good police

Practice what we preach.

Stop participating in corruption. Stop normalizing corruption

Educate and create awareness to my peers about corruption

Be a person of integrity. Have ethical behaviors in order to educate others

## What can you do to fight corruption?

Become the president of South Africa.

Dont pay for 'coldrinks' 👀

Not partake in corrupt activities and report corruption

speak about it

Be a responsible citizen

Report and live a corruption free life. One cant accuse people of corruption when they corrupt themselves

Speak out. Engage and stand for what is right .

Contribute to forums like this and support the work of organisations already spearheading this work. Duplicating efforts is counter productive

Report it

raise aw

SPEAK UP!

Pratice what we preach.

Firstly not engage in it, report those who does, join and motivate anti corruption campaignes

Ethically conduct myself in all aspects

Speak out Mobilise against corruption. Be transparent in all ways

Report corruption , and make sure im not corrupt to

Encourage people to parcitipate in voting wisely, keeping in mind the choice doesn't only affect current generation.

Teach my community people what I've learnt on the programs that I attend so that we can be united and fight against corruption

Report any illegal activity going hand in hand with corruption and do follow ups oanonymously so ( wouldnt want to find myself dead)

Take accountability for my corrupt actions , educate young ones the good in anti corrupt

Start getting rid of those who are corrupt and old people who are in power...YOUNG PEOPLE MUST LEAD!!

Engage youth on preventative measures to fight corruption from an early age and advocate for teaching of ethics from primary school. Ethics are central to fighting corruption

Pay less cooldrink. Engage with my circle on the topic maybe pay my traffic fines?

8

| | |
|---|---|
| Out with the old in with the youth. | I will definitely start by surrounding myself with people who are on a same page with me and stick together to fight it because i wont fight it on my own |
| By being more active and participate more individually so can protect our community | join anti corruption movement |
| Ethics Account to action | Fight! Fight! Fight! Till the last breath |
| More every day candy make diferents | Play a role in intiatives taking place already |
| Be accountable and live with integrity | Have integrity |
| | Never participate in corrupt practises |

**Introduction to the National Anti-Corruption Strategy**

This session was facilitated by Councilor Nkosana Dolopi from the NACAC who provided the background of the NACS that led to the establishment of the NACAC. He further provided overview of who the NACAC are, their mandate, including their advisory role on the implementation of the NACS, in strengthening SA's anti-corruption architecture and engaging citizens on what can be done to combat corruption through anti-corruption summits as well as advising the president on the implementation of the recommendations from the Zondo Commission.

To do this, the NACS established sub-committees that are: institutional architecture, legislative reform, communication and engagement, and whistleblowing on public procurement and monitoring and evaluation. After some time, this was reconstituted, and it was decided that there is a need for three sub-committees. In these sub-committees, there is one that deals with the establishment of the office of public integrity, law enforcement agencies and then communication. The approach that is adopted by the NACAC emphasizes prevention rather than adaptation as the main way to address corruption which highlights the need for behaviour change, consciousness, building a movement, education, and awareness.

As a result, the current overall recommendation of the NACAC to the President is the establishment of a Chapter 9 institution, called the Office of Public Integrity (OPI),

9

particularly because there is a view that the fight against corruption must have a dedicated kind of effort and institution. The OPI, therefore, would be an institution designed to address and fight against corruption and would work closely with law enforcement agencies. It would also serve as an advisory body to the law enforcement agents.

Thus, the NACAC made a call to encourage young people to play an active role in the fight against corruption as leaders of tomorrow. This is particularly because when government and public institutions fail because of corruption, it affects young people's everyday lives in very personal ways. Thus, young people were asked to personalize politics and take an active role in shifting the public narratives about themselves being removed from it, they were encouraged to rise and mobilize themselves in the fight against corruption in the country and in their societies. They were also consulted on the recommendations of the establishment of the OPI by the NACAC, specifically to provide their reflections on the OPI concept, as it relates to its function, governance, resources it would require to function well and institutions it could collaborate with.

**Youth Feedback: The Social Norms of Corruption and Questions on the OPI**
*Social Norms Leading to Corruption:*
- Capitalist System and Corruption- It was argued that capitalism inherently promotes corruption due to its emphasis on wealth accumulation and exploitation of labor. The high societal standards set by capitalism create a drive for material success, leading some, especially the historically disadvantaged, to resort to corruption in an attempt to "catch up."
- Perception of Corruption Among Disadvantaged Groups- Due to historical inequality, black people are often seen as more corrupt because they strive to achieve the artificial standards of wealth and success established by those who own the means of production.
- Service Delivery and Corruption of Convenience: Slow and inefficient service delivery systems were highlighted as a cause of "corruption of convenience," where people resort to bribery to expedite processes.

*Questions Raised by Young People:*

- Integrity in Public Sector Roles: "*How do we restore integrity and accountability in sectors like the police, where once-respected roles are now viewed with disgrace?*"

- Youth, Technology, and Whistleblowing: "*How can the youth be protected when using technology to combat corruption, given the current threats to whistleblowers? Does the council have any structural or tangible advisory measures in place to address this issue?*"

- Chapter 9 Institution Criteria: "*Regarding your recommendation for a Chapter 9 institution to address corruption, what criteria would ensure its integrity, especially considering concerns around cadre deployment and potential corruption within the institution itself?*"

- Accountability and Institutional Proliferation: "*There's concern about avoiding accountability by creating multiple institutions. How would a proposed anti-corruption Chapter 9 institution differ from existing bodies like the Public Protector? What powers or resources would it need, and is there consideration for a specialized anti-corruption court, similar to those in Botswana, Cameroon, and Kenya?*"

**Youth reflections on the OPI:**

**What does a well-functioning OPI look like?**

1. Meets its objective, investigate corruption, carries out effective/ informative awareness on broader social media (accessible), protection of whistleblowers for effective reporting, clearly defined criteria of what it constitutes or who sits in OPI.
2. Well-coordinated, Well-funded, Capacitated expertise, Inclusive, Independent
3. The OPI must be accessible and there should be a coalition between it and civil society. It must formulate structures, policies that suit society at large
4. Must have a clear mandate
5. Should be accountable, have integrity and be transparent
6. A well-functioning OPI that involves a youth directorate

**How should it be governed?**

11

1. Independent (public call for application, transparent and free from government influences), no cadre deployment, short-term contracts (rotational power), and is answerable to the judiciary and the NPA
2. It should be governed by parliament but should act independently
3. Proactive approach to systemic corruption, investigative autonomy, governance of code of ethics, framework for collaboration with SCOPA
4. Independent from the state, employed by NACAC based on qualifications
5. Should be governed with transparency: weekly gazettes or public newspapers to the communities

**What resources does it need?**
1. CARA model of funding- GBV recovery, Rotary club model- Volunteers
2. Strictly chapter 9 institutions
3. 60% of legal independent practitioners

**Which institutions does it need to collaborate with?**
1. Churches, Businesses, CSO, Other existing Chapter 9 institutions
2. Law enforcement agencies, civil society, private sector, government
3. SIS, NPA, SCOPA and civil society
4. Multi-stakeholder partnership. The public protector (sub/ wing structure)
5. CSOs, government leaders, community leaders, legal fraternity, business, and SIU to prevent capture of the office.

**Which key areas should OPI focus on?**
1. Public procurement
2. Oversight of public institutions including employment into those institutions
3. Research
4. Investigations
5. Advocacy, public awareness and education
6. Supporting community organizing against corruption
7. Education, health, and law enforcement
8. Systematic corruption not dealt with by other institutions
9. Establishment of formalized procedures with state institutions that combat corruption/ maladministration

10. Collaborating with AG in monitoring the implementation of mandatory improvements as per plans

11. Prosecution on Zondo Commission/new crimes

**How can OPI include youth in its design so that youth issues are not excluded?**

1. Capacitation, consultation, 50%+ youth representation, cultural restructuring, directory for submissions for recommendation

2. Involving youth in the sub-committee, speak to issues that affect youth, corruption awareness at a basic education level

3. Including the youth for brainstorming fresh ideas, choosing a proper candidate to lead the rest of the youth and they must be a certain age. The candidate must be responsible, accountable and reliable with reliable resources

4. Youth engagement at grassroots levels, communication language is key, including the youth from inception and logo design or art competition

5. Employ youth, amplify youth voices on anti-corruption, target youth where they are through edutainment (poems, sketches, sports events and youth imbizos)

**What are normalized behaviours among youth that contribute to corruption?**

1. Lack of information, poor participation, lack of pursuit to education

2. Drunk driving, cheating, lying/ dishonesty, not whistleblowing, modelling bad behaviour/ examples (youth looking up to corrupt politicians)

3. Lack of accountability (culture), being socialized into challenging authorities, abuse (substance, physical and GBV), lack of knowledge (living according to your own understanding), idolizing corrupt authorities

4. Skhothane culture, peer pressure, societal normalization of corruption, corruption on a macro-level not micro as well as nepotism

5. Bribing of public servants, popularism, instant gratification (short cut), substance abuse or underage drinking and irresponsible drinking, nepotism, ignorance (looking away)

6. Paying cooldrink (complacency), fake IDs for clubs, peer pressure, soft life, apathetic, and turning a blind eye.

**How can youth address these behaviours**

1. Introduction to civic education.

13

2. Raise awareness, social media, making sure everyone is valid.

3. By engaging in skills programmes within schools, using technology to your advantage (responsible use of the internet), after-school programmes and exploring talent, accepting accountability and responsibility at all spheres of social institutions.

4. Re-wiring the mind and enhanced emphasis on ethics.

5. Do not participate in corruption, do your research (judge on actions), conscientise and moral behaviour, putting pressure on the government for efficient and effective service delivery, rehabilitation centres must offer skills development programmes

6. Normalising inclusivity throughout processes (seat at the table), instilling new/ positive values (curriculum), socio-economic upliftment, normalising whistleblowing (make it valuable), and active citizenry

**How can OPI work with youth to address them?**

1. Find information that should be fun and attractive to the eye, OPI must include the youth in their council

2. Education on types of corruption, awareness/ support on reporting, relate to youth (social media etc)

3. It needs to provide a safe space for young people to engage freely in civic spaces, funding students that actually cannot afford and fund their studies, monitoring systems that lead to corruption, de-normalising the culture of corruption among systems

4. Establish youth advisory board, youth led campaigns, customized training/ services aimed at operationalizing the role of youth in implementation

5. Co-create for leadership with integrity using government reward program, workshops (awareness campaigns) like school roadshows and hosting training programs on how people should do research (specifics) and creating a safe space for youth to voice out their issues (youth desk, fast tracking and creating an information sit on integrity)

6. Employ them and take into consideration that they might be experienced, active social media platforms, collaboration with dept that deals with youth (eg DBE), youth programmes and take recommendations from youth (have a platform for submissions)

14

7. OPI needs to provide a safe space for the youth in order to engage freely in civil society

**Whistleblowing: Changing the Culture**

The issue of whistleblowing in South Africa is particularly a sensitive topic that is also perceived negatively because it is often viewed as a significant risk to one's safety. Thus, as part of its mandate, NACAC recommended to the President an implementation of robust protective measures for Whistleblowers as highlighted in the Zondo Commission's recommendations. In addition to protection, NACAC has proposed the establishment of a dedicated, well-funded whistleblowing unit under the OPI that would address not only the safety of the whistleblowers but also the broader impact on their loved ones. This is particularly because threats extend beyond the individual who exposes corruption to their family members, spouses, children, and even extended relatives. Therefore, there is a need for a unit to consider comprehensive protection strategies to safeguard whistleblowers.

Another important aspect that the NACAC emphasizes is finding a balance between offering financial rewards and fostering a sense of public duty. While financial incentives are necessary to encourage whistleblowers, they have argued that there should not be an overemphasis on monetary rewards. Instead, the focus should remain on the collective responsibility to eradicate corruption for the greater good of society. The ultimate goal is to cultivate a culture where individuals are motivated not just by financial gain but by a shared commitment to protecting the country from corruption, regardless of personal benefit.

Thus, as part of this broader effort, the NACAC also actively consulted with youth on how to shift the negative perceptions surrounding whistleblowers and promote a culture of whistleblowing as well as their protection. This was to reshape public attitudes, particularly among youth by emphasizing the important role whistleblowers play in safeguarding democracy and integrity. This was done through a video screening of *Politically Aweh's* video on Whistleblowing. The aim of this video was to change culture, bring about a shift in the views that people hold against Whistleblowers to foster a culture where whistleblowers are seen as defenders of justice, ultimately encouraging more people to step forward and contribute to the fight against corruption.

15

This was done through the combination of journalism, comedy and existing research on Whistleblowers and the session was facilitated by Karabo Makwela from GIZ-TIP.

***Feedback from the Youth Regarding Changing the Culture around Whistleblowers:***

- The youth expressed that whistleblowing in South Africa carries a deeply negative stigma, often associated with terms like *impimpi* or spy, which deters people from coming forward. They highlighted the reality that whistleblowers are frequently targeted and even killed, making it a high-risk action. This fear is compounded by the lack of trust in existing protection channels, as institutions like the police or senior government officials are often seen as compromised. They also pointed to the case of Babita Deokaran as a tragic example of how dangerous whistleblowing can be, which emphasized how there's currently no guaranteed safe space for whistleblowers. Additionally, they suggested that the term "whistleblower" itself is problematic, evoking trauma and fear. Instead, they proposed rebranding whistleblowers as "human rights defenders" or "influencers of change" to create a more positive and empowering image. This, they believe, could help shift the narrative and encourage more people to report wrongdoing without fear of stigma or retaliation.

- One perspective shared was that the way society views whistleblowers needs a complete overhaul. Instead of seeing them as mere informants, there needs to be recognition of their critical role in exposing corruption and holding power to account. Without their courage, there would be no commissions of inquiry or advisory panels addressing corruption today. Whistleblowers risk their lives and livelihoods daily, facing demotion, dismissal, and even death, yet their contributions often go unrecognized or undervalued. A pressing concern raised was the immediate danger whistleblowers face while legislative processes and discussions about their protection continue. In light of this, it was suggested that existing resources, such as funds from confiscated criminal assets, could be repurposed to provide urgent support. This support could cover essential needs like psychosocial assistance, legal representation, and financial aid, ensuring whistleblowers have the protection they need now, rather than waiting for future policy changes.

16

- Another insightful perspective highlighted the transformative power of digital audio-visual media in shaping societal opinions and driving conversations. This medium is seen as a powerful tool for shifting public narratives in ways that traditional reports and documents often cannot. The concern raised was that while conferences like this produce detailed reports and physical documents, these outcomes are unlikely to reach or resonate with the average citizen. Instead, there is a call to leverage engaging, relatable content that ordinary people can connect with. The suggestion was to explore how creative media, like short films, podcasts, or social media videos, could be used to distill complex issues into accessible formats. This approach would ensure that the insights and outcomes of discussions are not confined to formal spaces but are translated into media that can inspire awareness and action in broader society.

- Ther was another insightful point about the need to integrate technology into whistleblower protection. Particularly a need to have a widely accessible platform where whistleblowers can securely log information, upload documents, and maintain their anonymity. It was emphasized that, in a post-modern era, such digital solutions should be part of the conversation

**Corruption Watch Youth Activism Toolkit:**

Corruption Watch launched an anti-corruption toolkit accompanied by an innovative board game called Bribes and Whistles. The toolkit was developed to empower young people to actively participate in the fight against corruption by providing essential resources, information, and strategies. It offers multiple definitions of corruption, drawing from Corruption Watch, Transparency International, and South African legal frameworks to ensure that young people understand corruption from various perspectives. The toolkit highlights key forms of corruption affecting youth, such as bribery, sextortion, and employment irregularities, while also addressing the broader impacts on education, economic opportunities, and public trust.

Additionally, the toolkit provides practical steps for young people to take action, including raising public awareness, holding leaders accountable, engaging with their communities, and using social media to promote transparency. It also outlines the importance of reporting corruption through established channels like the South African Police Service, the Office of the Public Protector, and various civil society

17

organizations, while emphasizing the need for whistleblower protection. A facilitator guide is included to support trainers who are conducting workshops with youth organizations to ensure that the material is effectively communicated.

To complement the toolkit, Corruption Watch designed Bribes and Whistles, a board game aimed at making learning about corruption interactive and engaging. The game encourages players to navigate ethical dilemmas and complex situations, that foster critical thinking and ethical decision-making. This game was developed through a collaborative process that involves Corruption Watch staff, and the game draws inspiration from Snakes and Ladders and Bad People, adapted to focus on corruption-related scenarios. The game is intended to be made publicly available after further testing.

*__Feedback from the Youth:__*

- In response to the launch of the toolkit and the accompanying Bribes and Whistles game, the value of integrating this initiative into broader societal efforts to combat corruption was emphasized. It was suggested that, rather than focusing solely on establishing a Chapter 9 institution dedicated to corruption awareness, initiatives like this toolkit could effectively raise awareness at the community level. This would resonate with young people by presenting corruption in a way that is relatable and easy to engage with- encouraging proactive participation. The potential of incorporating anti-corruption education into the school curriculum, particularly through the Life Orientation learning area was highlighted. There was a recognition that was made that Life Orientation offers an interactive platform that encourages students to actively engage and reflect on societal issues. Therefore, integrating the game into this subject could foster a deeper understanding of corruption from a young age to build awareness progressively from primary school through matric. They suggested that lobbying for this integration at a national level could significantly contribute to early conscientization, that would shape a generation of young people to be more attuned to ethical decision-making and civic responsibility.

*__Documentary Screening (Rising Voices)__*

18

In the evening of Day1, the African Women Against Corruption Network's documentary on sexual corruption was screened. *Rising Voices: Unmasking Sexual Corruption in South Africa* shares stories of survivors of sexual corruption, examines the legal deficiencies in South Africa's legal landscape and discusses the need to tackle the issue. Following the screening there was a short discussion where participants in the room expressed that they knew of this happening, that there was a need to raise awareness further, that there is also a need to create safe spaces for men to talk about this happening to them as well.

## DAY 2

### The socio-economic impact of corruption

A presentation was delivered by Defend Our Democracy to highlight the socio-economic impacts of corruption in South Africa. It focused on the severe consequences of corruption and state capture, particularly how they have deeply affected communities and weakened public trust in institutions. The presentation discussed the role of corruption networks in both the public and private sectors, linking them to politically motivated crimes, such as the murders of whistleblowers Babita Deokaran and Philemon Ngwenya, who exposed fraudulent activities. High-profile scandals, like the VBS Mutual Bank collapse and the misuse of public funds in the Vrede Dairy Farm project, were used to illustrate the devastating effects of corruption on both financial stability and community development.

The presentation also shed light on the personal costs faced by whistleblowers, who often endure job loss, mental health struggles, and social isolation, making it difficult for others to come forward. Despite these challenges, this presentation emphasized that progress is possible through collective action and a strong call for ongoing activism, policy reform, and collective efforts to hold leaders accountable, prevent corrupt individuals from returning to power, and a need to build a culture of integrity and transparency was made.

Feedback:

- Is privatization, particularly in the local government space, sometimes driven by corruption? Specifically, could excessive corruption on a large-scale prompt multi-stakeholder engagement to seek alternatives, such as privatization, to 'save' municipalities? Does the entry of the private sector lead to improvements? And would you say that privatization in local government is a byproduct of corruption, or does corruption sometimes stem from privatization?

- Another point raised highlighted the concerns about the narrow focus on the Guptas in discussions of state capture, suggesting that corruption in South Africa is more deeply rooted and systemic. The speaker emphasizes the need for a holistic approach to corruption that includes historical contracts,

monopolistic influence, and broader structural issues, rather than targeting specific individuals or groups. This perspective calls for an objective, informed analysis of corruption to avoid bias and oversimplification.

**<u>Youth-Participation on implementation of various pillars in the NACS</u>**

The youth were split into groups, and they were allocated a specific pillar in the NACS to discuss and unpack. The point was to get the youths input on how to best implement the NACS and some of the strategies attached to it. Below is the feedback received from different groups:

**Group 7**

**Open public procurement (Pillar 4)**

1. Group 7 stated that we do not need a new public procurement system instead we should aim for uniformity between the PFMA and MFMA, so we can standardize them. Implement ONE policy counter; Absolute power equals to abuse of power.
2. The PFMA and MFMA could be administered differently, yet uniformity will improve the current system.
3. M & E system/ implement robust M & E system
4. Goods and services should have a standardizedthreshold/mark ups of procurement or pricing
5. Abuse of deviations: emergencies used as an excuse to deviate (i.e. Covid-19) solution. Regulatory body for procurement all together
6. Platform where public can access and be exposed to the adjudication of big tenders. Who gets them and why equals to encourage transparency.
7. Companies that do not deliver goods and services on previous or existing tenders must be disbarred which equals to remove from service provider list
8. Phased approach: e.g. Phase 1: Deliverables presented before we pay. Follow up on progress (support SMMEs) so that they are not excluded.
9. Scrutinise contracts: e.g. How catering companies bidding for construction tender.

**Group 6 (Pillar 3)**

**What can we do to hold those involved in corruption accountable?**

1. Educate ourselves/ communities about existing accountability mechanisms

| Political | Legal |
|---|---|
| Mampara; Name and shame list of politicians currently charged. | Establishment of accountability framework that links communities to accountability mechanisms and institutions |
| Corrupt politicians should be made individually liable for any losses | Corrupt officials should be made individually liable for any losses |
| Pressure to implement the Zondo Commissions | |

2. Introduce further accountability mechanisms
3. Restraint of trade agreements against senior civil servants and politicians @ all levels of government in trading with the state.
4. Introduce a public referendum mechanism that triggers a legislature sitting to remove officials (requires 2/3rds of residence to trigger)
5. New legislation that bars corruption charged and convicted individuals from holding public offices
6. Special judicial court to expedite corruption cases

**Group 5 (Pillar 1)**

**What is our plan for oversight of corruption in our communities?**

1. External/ auditing that encourages or fosters public participation and community insight- be transparent to the public.
2. Bring back imbizo- meaningful engagement.
3. Involve youth and local individuals in mayoral office and other community-based councils (someone monitor the councils)
4. Identify role-players -community organisations, churches, schools/ broaden scope of focus to be wider than just municipalities
5. Building accountability forms: involving business sectors, schools, faith based organisations, NPOs etc. all stakeholders
6. Must be clear tools of monitoring and evaluation
7. Must clearly understand roles of councillors, service delivery

8. Community service delivery accountability and corruption forum

9. Understand that the business sector (white dominated) is also involved in corruption and how to tackle this

10. Rural communities could work with chiefdoms and rural leadership

11. Responsible citizenry- environmental corruption, how to hold corporates and government organisations accountable for pollution and poor service delivery affecting livelihoods

12. Youth must be deeply involved in all anti-corruption structures


**Group 2 (Pillar 2)**

**What plan can we develop to encourage whistleblowing?**

1. Develop an online website or directory to report corruption anonymously and leverage the power of AI

2. Strengthen the safety of WB and their loved ones through dedicated state houses and specialized security unit

3. Establishment of a clear policy for anti-corruption, accompanied by a specialized police unit

4. Change language of WB from "impimpi" to for instance change champions to change the negative into positive

5. Bringing the conversation closer to home: Taxi ranks, schools, churches, traditional leaders/ healers and groove

6. Finding innovative ways to educate people about the importance of WB through games

7. Fostering a supportive culture or leadership commitment

8. Strong cancel culture against those accused of corruption should there be merit/ evidence to warrant investigation

9. Capacitation of law enforcement to sensitively deal with cases of corruption

10. Proper protection of identity of WB (particularly the media): accountability from media leaking their identity

11. Encourage change of perception of whistle blowers

12. Communities should apply Ubuntu philosophy

13. Introduce a culture of 'snitching' and protecting

14. Community profiling: local consensus- now your community to accurately monitor service delivery claims

23

**Group 4 (Pillar 4)**

How are we to enforce accountability in our government and communities

1. Educate the public on civic matters through IDPs, CBPs, Budget, SIDBS and awareness of access
2. The communities are the government and the government is the community
3. Working together is a must not a choice
4. Communities must hold government accountable because government is placed by the community
5. Public participation: where you reward system of participation and working, lure and bait system, kasi heroes: acknowledgement and valued inputs. Create monitoring and evaluation forums where you track records and follow ups and reviews
6. Effective use of technology including apps, impactful games, toll free lines, social media and informative pop up adds
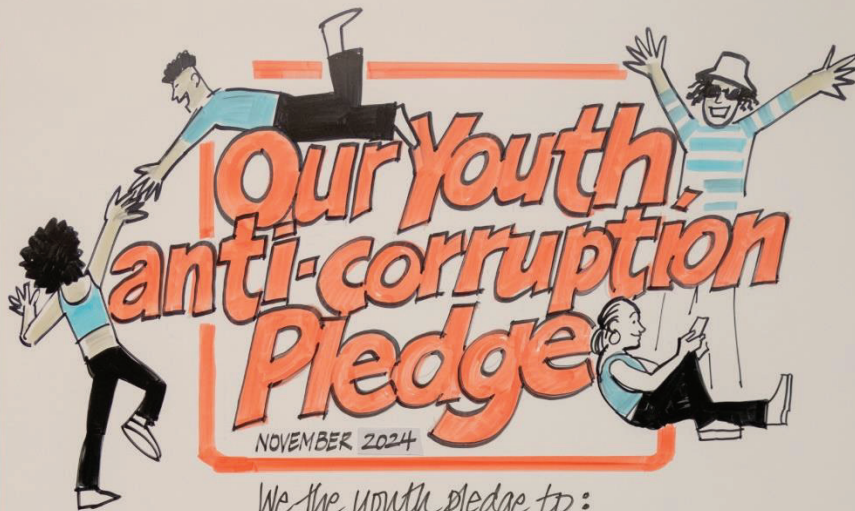
**Group 1 (Pillar 1)**

Promote and encourage active citizenry, whistleblowing, integrity and transparency in all spheres of society

The mobilization plan:

1. Education and empowerment around civic issues:
   - Workshops/ webinars
   - Social media
   - Edutainment
   - Civil society organization promotion
   - Public education (schools and universities as well as media)
2. Participation in community projects
   - Kenya case study: project oversight
3. Encourage others to report
   - Know safe whistleblowing channels
4. Develop networks of support
5. Utilise technology
6. Promote a positive culture around anti-corruption work like Integrity Icon awards

7. Incentivise like providing merch (badges), scholarships, fun activities
8. Partner with sports icons
9. Promote ani corruption careers and provide funding
10. Make it relatable to youth and the impact- patriotism (school LO)
11. Connect with international youth organisations and learn best practices

**NOTES**
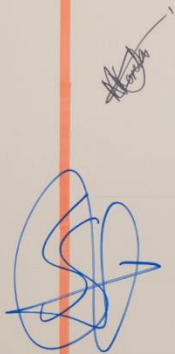
# The Future of Gender and Trust in Governance in 2040
# Futures Literacy Laboratory Report



## Background

This project was initiated following discussions between GIZ, Wits University, and the Future Africa Futures Literacy Incubator. GIZ requested the design and implementation of a Futures Literacy Laboratory (FLL) to explore the intersection of gender and corruption in preparation for the national anti-corruption dialogue on December 9, 2024. Two co-design meetings were held on November 12 and 22, 2024, to define the project objectives and design the lab.

The FLL took place over the course of a full day on December 3, 2024 at the Future Africa campus in Pretoria. The insights generated during the FLL are documented in this short report and will be used to inform the national dialogue and ongoing activities of the National Anti-Corruption Advisory Council. By participating in the FLL, members of the National Anti-Corruption Advisory Council were equipped to use the future as a lens to reframe their present challenges and opportunities, enhancing their ability to navigate and influence an unpredictable and complex landscape.

## Insights

The futures literacy laboratory process began with participants describing their probable and desirable futures, specifically imagining the future of gender and trust in governance in 2040. By thinking through and sharing their visions, participants identified the often tacit anticipatory assumptions shaping their imagination of the future. In the second phase, participants challenged these assumptions and re-conceptualized the topic by imagining unusual futures that were neither probable nor desirable, using reframe scenarios. This phase opened participants to novelty and complexity in their worldview. The future served as

1

a tool to unravel and explore thought processes on issues of gender and corruption, generating new insights and perspectives from the group. Key insights from the laboratory are documented here.

**Why versus how:** The group commented that discussions on anti-corruption often emphasize mechanisms such as policy, legislation, and enforcement, focusing on how to prevent corruption. However, these discussions tend to overlook a deeper examination of the values, power dynamics, and systemic realities that enable corruption to exist.

**Diagnosis, action, and adaptability:** There is a need to better understand the nexus of gender and corruption, which includes collecting data and researching the linkages and dynamics between them. At the same time, there is an opportunity to bring this issue to the attention of lawmakers, an opportunity that cannot be missed. It is crucial to avoid poorly thought-out policies that could lead to ineffective implementation. However, it is also impossible to anticipate everything, as there is always uncertainty and unpredictability in the future. Recognizing the necessity for institutions that learn and adapt, one group used the metaphor of a wave washing away writing in the sand to illustrate the need for fluid and adaptable policies. As things constantly change, this highlights the importance of constant reflexivity, learning, and adaptability in any institution dealing with the complex issue of corruption and gender.

**Technology and shared values:** During the lab, technology was a recurring theme. Participants expressed a great deal of uncertainty about how technology would shape the future, using it as a vehicle to convey their hopes and fears. There was a sense of powerlessness regarding a world dominated by emerging technologies, leading to both positive and negative consequences. This sense of powerlessness, and the act of projecting hopes and fears onto something omnipresent and abstract like technology, may be linked to a resignation of our ability to control the future. Discussions also explored whether technology could address corruption, with AI frequently mentioned as a potential solution. However, concerns were raised about who controls AI and the implications of its governance. These conversations underscored the importance of critically adopting technology, recognizing the challenges of aligning shared values, and avoiding the assumption that technology alone can solve all problems.

**Gaps in the discussion:** The ideas and discussions that emerged during the lab had some interesting and notable gaps. There was an absence of discussion on power dynamics, which are crucial to understanding the broader context of corruption. Additionally, the lack of discussion on private sector involvement meant that important economic factors were potentially overlooked, highlighting the need for a more comprehensive exploration of these dynamics.

**Group dynamics:** Over 80% of the attendees identified as female, with the majority being in the 30-40 age range. Ensuring a balance of voices in future discussions could be crucial for effective strategy and policy development in future engagements.

2

## Recommendations

Initial recommendations that emerged from the discussions in the futures lab are described here.

1. **Emphasize diagnosis**: Continue to collect data and conduct research on the linkages between gender and corruption in order to properly diagnose the issue. This diagnosis should take place regularly to inform anti-corruption strategies and allow for continuous learning and adaptation.
2. **Adaptable policies and institutions**: To enhance the effectiveness of anti-corruption efforts, it is recommended to design institutions and policies that are adaptable to dynamic and unpredictable contexts. It is important to act quickly when opportunities arise and to be able to learn from past mistakes and successes, including those of previous institutions.
3. **Differentiation and specificity**: It is essential to define the levels of intervention, specifying which policymakers should be involved. Additionally, it is important to identify who is affected by gender and corruption, considering the differentiated views and impacts on various groups.

*"The future is a social construct; if we made this present we can make a different future" - Councillor Thandeka*

3

# Annex: Horizon 2 Recommendations

In phase 4, the participants were guided through a three horizons exercise to focus on ways in which the insights and capabilities gained through the laboratory can be used in their work and everyday environments. Three horizons is a futures method that entails taking a vision of the future (e.g. a more fair and equitable South Africa) and connecting it to existing systems and structures in the present. This highlights the tensions between the dominant way of doing things in the present and the change imagined in the future. The method is useful for identifying potential transitions that link the imagined future to the present. The method envisions three horizons, each of which describe very different conditions that become more or less prevalent over time.
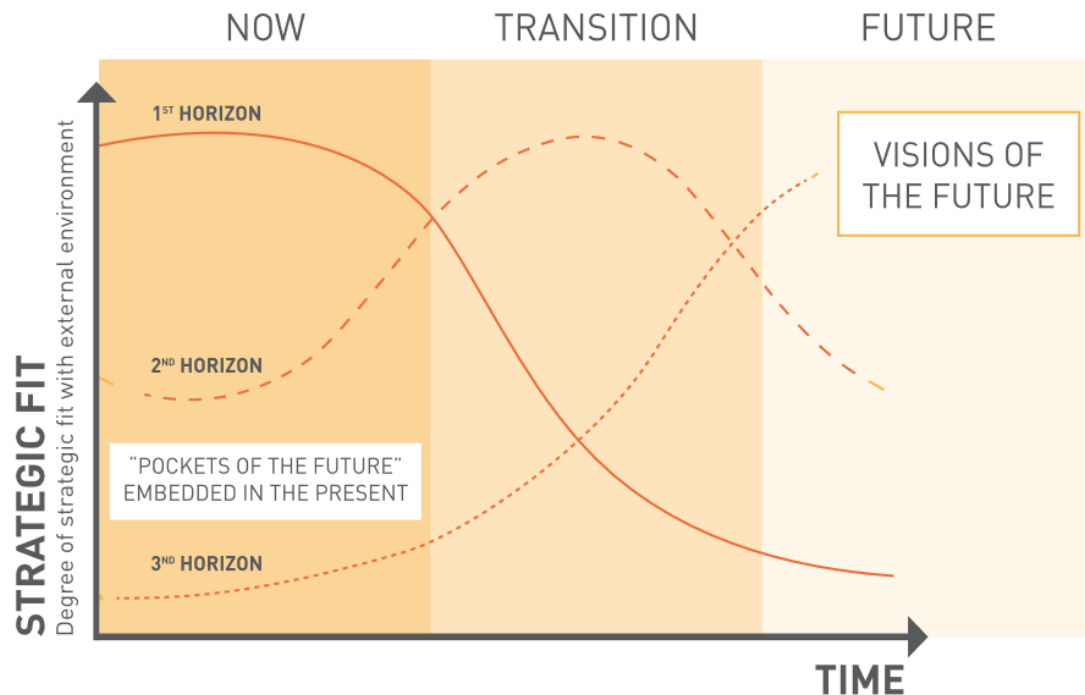


Horizon 1: The prevailing systems and ways of doing things in the present

Horizon 3: Describing "new" ideas and systems that are not mainstream in the present but may become so in the future

Horizon 2: An intermediate space where transition between competing paths (1 and 3) plays out.

The recommendations derived from the 'levers of change' developed by each group in Horizon 2 are outlined below. These are presented exactly as the participants wrote them, with no additional processing or analysis at this stage.

| Group | Recommendation |
|---|---|
| 1 | Regulating CSO sector |
| 1 | Sensitising traditional leadership sector to GBV + corruption |
| 1 | Protect independence of CSOs |
| 1 | Protect sources of CSO funding |
| 1 | Full automation of systems |

4

| Group | Recommendation |
|---|---|
| 1 | Psycho-social support for all |
| 1 | Enforcement of punishment of perpetrators of GBV |
| 1 | Digital architecture strengthened |
| 1 | Digitise forms + documents |
| 1 | Further training of officers |
| 2 | Open communication & collaboration between agencies, also to reduce competition (Civil society can play a role) |
| 2 | Open communication about anti-corruption initiatives & strategy, improve public awareness, also of roles of different agencies |
| 2 | Exchange programmes with other countries' anti-corruption |
| 2 | Data collection & analysis (you can't measure what you don't know) (streamlined / centralised) |
| 2 | Skills transfer across agencies & across sectors |
| 2 | Contextualisation of new international obligations on gender & corruption |
| 2 | A human-centred approach to anti-corruption that takes into account the realities & vulnerabilities of the context (civil society) |
| 2 | Review existing policies for effectiveness & inclusivity & improve implementation (civil society can play a role) |
| 2 | Capacitation on gender dimensions of corruption / mainstreaming in prevention, investigation, data collection / analysis, HR, monitoring (civil society) |
| 2 | Proactive approach to prevention, robust & must be mandated to a specific agency |
| 3 | Victim blaming |
| 3 | Criminalise retaliatory actions against whistleblowers |
| 3 | SAPS / Law enforcement |
| 3 | Enforced consequences 4 perps |
| 3 | More progressive gender education |
| 3 | Education curriculum - include ethics, gender mainstreaming |
| 3 | From a gender initiative approach to gender mainstreaming |
| 3 | Peer counselling of men - non-violence |
| 3 | OPI's - all sectors |
| 3 | Reframing of social norms |
| 3 | Everything! |
| 4 | Diagnosing problems |
| 4 | Problem driven iterative adaptation |
| 4 | Gender lens |
| 4 | Resources + capacity for state institutions |
| 4 | Servant leadership |
| 4 | Communicate + celebrate wins + successes |
| 4 | Nationwide anti-corruption campaign on values + behaviours |
| 4 | *~~Financial~~ incentives for doing the right thing |

* The participant originally wrote financial incentives before deciding to change their recommendation to focus on non-financial incentives.

# NOTES