

## **PRESS STATEMENT 2025 World Whistleblower Day**

**Harare, 23 June 2025-** Transparency International join the rest of the world in commemorating the **#WorldWhistleblowerDay2025**. Whistleblowers are the backbone of accountability. Their courage to speak out against corruption and abuse of power is central to strengthening transparency, safeguarding public resources, and upholding the rule of law. In Zimbabwe, whistleblowers have played a critical role in exposing corrupt practices across various sectors, often at great personal risk.

Despite growing recognition of the value whistleblowers provide as key allies in detecting, investigating, and prosecuting corruption, Zimbabwe still lacks a comprehensive and stand-alone whistleblower protection law. Whistleblowers continue to operate in a highly vulnerable environment, facing threats such as professional retaliation, false prosecution, and, in some cases, death. These risks are compounded by a culture of impunity and the “normalization” of corruption.

Currently, whistleblower protection is scattered across limited provisions in existing laws such as the *Prevention of Corruption Act [Chapter 9:16]* and the *Criminal Procedure and Evidence Act [Chapter 9:07]*. However, these fragmented legal protections are insufficient. They fail to offer broad, secure, and consistent protection, especially for those whose disclosures fall outside formal criminal proceedings or involve non-state actors.

Transparency International Zimbabwe acknowledges the positive steps that have been taken thus far, including the adoption of Whistleblower Protection Principles in March 2022. These principles laid the groundwork for the development of a dedicated legal framework. However, over four years on, progress remains slow. The draft Whistleblower Protection and Witness Protection legislation, while welcome, is still awaiting tabling before Cabinet and subsequent submission to Parliament. This delay highlights the urgent need for accelerated action.

We therefore call upon the Government of Zimbabwe to prioritise the finalisation and enactment of a comprehensive and stand-alone Whistleblower Protection Law. Such a law must provide accessible reporting mechanisms, ensure confidentiality, prohibit retaliation, and guarantee support and protection (legal, physical, and psychological) for those who report wrongdoing in good faith.

As we commemorate World Whistleblower Day 2025, we reaffirm that protecting whistleblowers is not only a moral obligation but a strategic imperative in the fight against corruption. Only when whistleblowers are empowered and protected can Zimbabwe make meaningful progress toward greater transparency, accountability, and financial probity.

**Resist, Reject and Report corruption!!!**

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