

PRESS STATEMENT

African Anti-Corruption Day

Harare, – 11 July 2025 Transparency International Zimbabwe (TI Z) joins the rest of the continent in commemorating the **2025 Africa Anti-Corruption Day** under the theme: **“Promoting Human Dignity in the Fight Against Corruption.”** TI Z reaffirms its commitment to advancing the principles of transparency, accountability, and integrity as core pillars in the protection and promotion of human dignity. The theme for this year, offers a timely and profound reflection on the urgent need to center anti-corruption efforts on the lived realities, rights, and aspirations of people, especially in contexts like Zimbabwe where the impacts of corruption are most devastating for ordinary citizens.

Corruption is not a victimless crime. It directly erodes the dignity of individuals and communities by denying them access to essential services, economic opportunities, and justice. In Zimbabwe, systemic corruption continues to undermine trust in public institutions and perpetuate inequality, disenfranchisement, and poverty. Inadequate investigations, uneven application of justice, and limited progress in prosecuting high-profile corruption cases have created a perception that power shields the corrupt while the vulnerable suffer in silence.

When investigations for corruption cases are delayed or manipulated, when whistleblowers are exposed or targeted, and when justice is unevenly applied, **human dignity is compromised.** Victims lose faith in the justice system, whistleblowers and witnesses fear retaliation, and communities bear the cost of impunity.

Despite principles for whistleblower and witness protection legislation being approved by cabinet in March 2022, Zimbabwe still lacks a legal framework to protect those who expose corruption. The absence of such legislation not only silences those who seek to expose corruption but emboldens perpetrators who operate without fear of consequence. This gap is a serious threat to public accountability and a clear violation of citizens' right to participate freely and safely in the fight against corruption.

Upholding human dignity in the anti-corruption context means that all arms of the state, particularly oversight and enforcement institutions, must act with **independence, integrity, and impartiality.** Citizens must have full access to public information, justice systems must protect victims and punish wrongdoing fairly, and public resources must be managed in a way that reflects the values of **social justice, inclusion, and equity.**

Transparency International Zimbabwe believes that **the fight against corruption is fundamentally a fight for human dignity.** It is not just about policies or prosecutions, it is about **restoring hope, trust, and justice** in the lives of people who are systematically denied these by corrupt practices.

TI Z reiterates its call for the following:

1. Expediting the enactment of Whistleblower and Witness Protection Laws to ensure safety, confidentiality, and legal safeguards for those who report corruption.
2. Strengthening Anti-Corruption Institutions by guaranteeing adequate resourcing, independence, and operational autonomy.
3. Embedding Human Rights in Anti-Corruption Policies by promoting citizen participation, transparency in public procurement, and equitable access to public services.

As we mark this Africa Anti-Corruption Day, TI Z emphasizes that anti-corruption is a collective responsibility led by government and supported by civil society, media, and the public. Only when justice is fair, accountability enforced, and integrity upheld, can Zimbabwe truly realize the promise of human dignity for all.

Resist, Reject and Report corruption!!!

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