

## PRESS STATEMENT- 2025 Corruption Perceptions Index

*Harare, 10 February 2026* — Transparency International Zimbabwe (TI Z) joins over 125 Chapters of Transparency International worldwide, a global movement against corruption, in launching the 2025 Corruption Perceptions Index (#CPI2025). The CPI is the world’s most authoritative indicator of perceived public-sector corruption, drawing on expert assessments and business surveys to score over 180 countries on a scale of 0 (highly corrupt) to 100 (very clean). The Index continues to shape global policy debates, investor confidence, development cooperation, and national reform agendas.

In the latest 2025 CPI report, Zimbabwe recorded a score of 22 out of 100, reflecting a one-point percentile increase from 21 in 2024. While this marginal improvement may suggest limited progress, Zimbabwe continues to perform significantly below the Sub-Saharan Africa regional average of 32 out of 100, highlighting the persistence and depth of corruption-related governance challenges. Evidently, corruption in the management of public resources in Zimbabwe remains pervasive, undermining political integrity, weakening accountability systems, and restricting citizens’ access to essential public services such as health, education, and social protection. These impacts are disproportionately borne by poor and marginalised communities, deepening inequality and eroding public trust in state institutions.

TI Z acknowledges ongoing anti-corruption efforts by the Government of Zimbabwe, including the establishment of specialised anti-corruption courts and steps taken towards the recovery of stolen assets domestically. However, given the transnational nature of corruption and illicit financial flows, these efforts must be strengthened through more robust asset recovery from other jurisdictions, enhanced mutual legal assistance, and stronger cooperation with international partners to trace, freeze and repatriate stolen public resources.

Importantly, Zimbabwe’s continued low CPI performance score has direct implications for the country’s economic recovery efforts, particularly its ongoing Arrears Clearance and Debt Resolution Process. International creditors, development partners, and investors increasingly view anti-corruption performance, transparency, and governance reforms as prerequisites for debt relief, concessional financing, and long-term investment. Continued weak CPI performance therefore risks undermining confidence in Zimbabwe’s reform commitments and slowing progress toward debt sustainability.

In line with the 2025 CPI findings and global best practice, TI Zimbabwe calls for urgent action in the following priority areas to reverse persistent corruption trends and restore confidence in governance reforms:

- **Promote independent, transparent, and accessible justice**-Zimbabwe must strengthen the independence of the judiciary and law enforcement institutions, ensure impartial investigation and prosecution of corruption cases, and improve access to justice for all citizens.
- **Regulate undue influence in politics**-Addressing corruption requires decisive action to curb political interference, opaque political financing, and conflicts of interest.
- **Protect civil society, media, and whistleblowers**-A safe and enabling environment for civil society organisations, investigative journalists, and whistleblowers is critical for exposing corruption and monitoring reform implementation. Retaliation, intimidation, and legal harassment undermine transparency and weaken Zimbabwe's anti-corruption architecture. TI Zimbabwe calls for the speedy enactment of the whistleblower and witness protection legal framework.
- **Strengthen oversight and transparency in public services and budgets**- Zimbabwe should improve transparency in public procurement, budgeting, and public finance management, particularly in high-risk sectors.
- **Prevent, detect, and punish grand corruption and illicit financial flows**-Tackling large-scale corruption, asset looting, and illicit financial flows is critical for safeguarding public resources and supporting fiscal recovery.

\*\*\*The End\*\*\*