

What is the Zimbabwe Anti-Corruption Commission?

- ❖ The Zimbabwe Anti-Corruption Commission (ZACC) is an independent commission created to combat corruption and crime. It is established in terms of Chapter 13, Part 1 of the Constitution of Zimbabwe.

When and how was it established?

- ❖ The Zimbabwe Anti-Corruption Commission was established on the 8th of September, 2005 when His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Zimbabwe swore in the first commissioners. The establishment of ZACC is conducted in accordance to the Constitution of Zimbabwe and the Anti-Corruption Commission Act which outline ZACC's powers, functions and objectives.

What are the functions of ZACC?

- ❖ Section 255 of the Constitution stipulates that ZACC has the following functions;
 - a) to investigate and expose cases of corruption in the public and private sectors;
 - b) to combat corruption, theft, misappropriation, abuse of power and other improper conduct in the public and private sectors;
 - c) to promote honesty, financial discipline and transparency in the public and private sectors;
 - d) to receive and consider complaints from the public and to take such action in regard to the complaints as the Commission considers appropriate;
 - e) to direct the Commissioner-General of Police to investigate cases of suspected corruption and to report to the Commission on the results of any such investigation;
 - f) to refer matters to the National Prosecuting Authority for prosecution;
 - g) to require assistance from members of the Police Service and other investigative agencies of the State; and
 - h) to make recommendations to the Government and other persons on measures to enhance integrity and accountability and prevent improper conduct in the public and private sectors.

Do other countries have Anti-Corruption Commissions?

- ❖ Yes, there are many other countries, regionally and internationally that have anti-corruption bodies. Examples include:
- ❖ The New South Wales Independent Commission against Corruption (ICAC). It has been described as a good illustration of an efficient and effective anti-corruption body. It is both independent and accountable.

The ICAC is independent in that its operations, including investigations, are not subject to the direction of politicians, bureaucrats, any political party, or the government. This independence is essential for the public to have confidence that the ICAC is not biased or subject to the dictates of the government of the day. Under the ICAC Act and other legislation, the ICAC is given special powers, which in some respects exceed those given to the police, to perform its investigative functions.



- ❖ Closer to Zimbabwe is the Anti-Corruption Commission of Zambia that executes its mandate through investigations and prosecutions of suspected offenders; establishes corruption prevention mechanisms; mobilises support and enlightens the citizenry of Zambia through community education programs.

How can we, as citizens benefit from an Anti-Corruption Commission?

- ❖ An independent and strengthened Anti-Corruption Commission provides a platform for citizens to report corruption allegations and receive redress thereof.
- ❖ The existence of an Anti-Corruption Commission can ensure that corruption is curbed thereby promoting the rule of law and enabling the economic and social development of the country.

Does Zimbabwe really need an Anti-Corruption Commission?

- ❖ Yes, Zimbabwe needs a functional, independent Anti-Corruption Commission. Such a body can not only ensure the prevention of corruption but it can also enforce the criminalisation thereof.

What can we, as Zimbabwean citizens, do to ensure an effective Anti-Corruption Commission?

- ❖ We can participate in the period nomination and interviews of commissioners of ZACC in terms of s. 237 of the Constitution.
- ❖ We can report cases of corruption and provide information through visiting ZACC (walk-in), writing letters, via telephone and utilising suggestion boxes.
- ❖ We can join TI Z and other civil society groups advocating for the further and better independence and capacitation of ZACC.

For more information and Legal Advice



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