

# SPEAKUP

AGAINST CORRUPTION

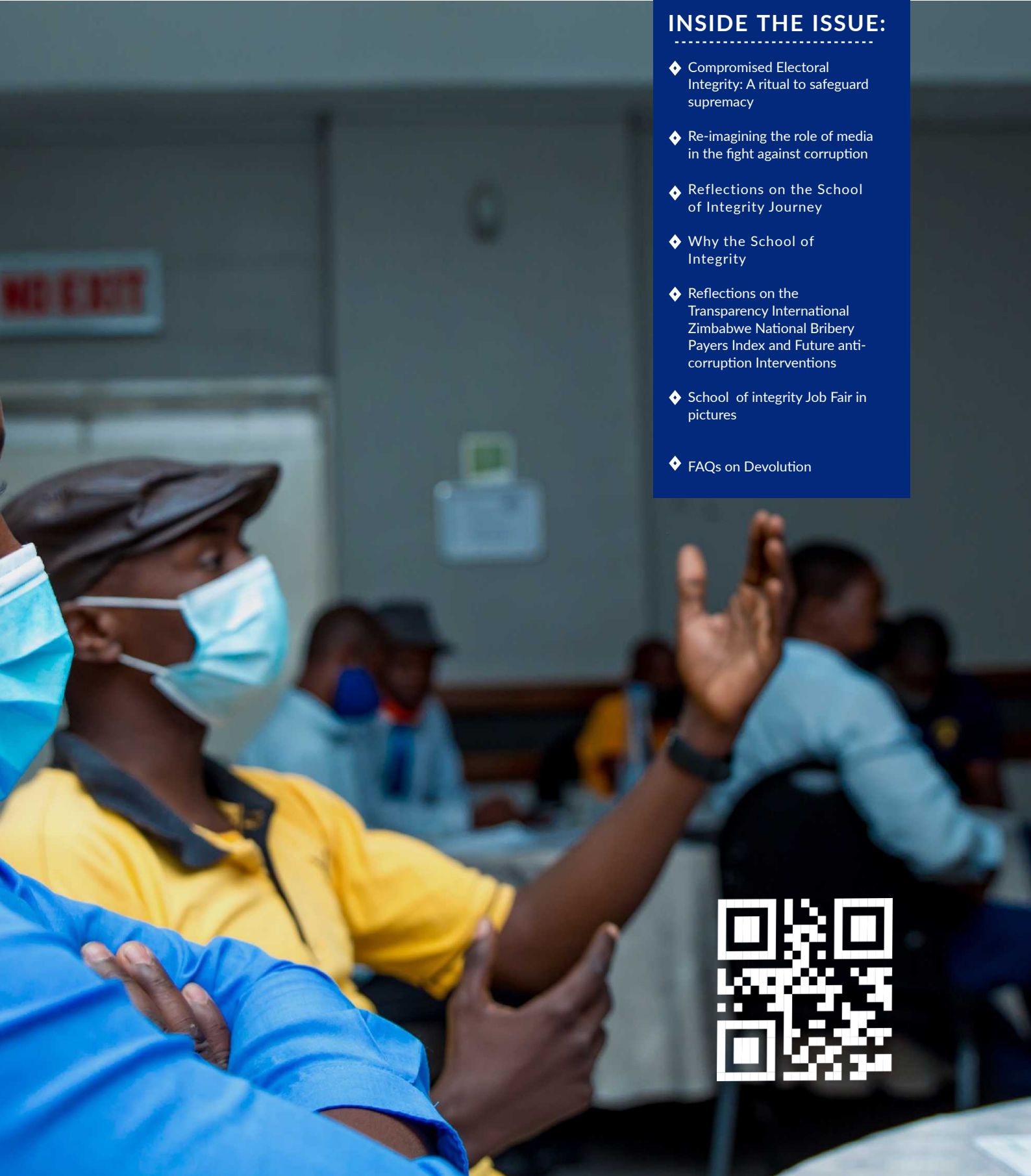
TAURA. KHULUMA

A School of Integrity Newsletter



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## EDITORIAL

TAFADZWA CHIKUMBU  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Transparency International Zimbabwe is pleased to launch its inaugural newsletter that brings to the fore initiatives and debates on anti-corruption issues. The contributors of this youth-led newsletter are young people: school of integrity alumni and Accountability Monitoring Committee (AMCs) in various provinces of Zimbabwe. This newsletter highlights everyday experiences of corruption and debates on how to respond and resolve corruption. The young people remain the linchpin of developing the nation owing to their numeric advantage and they are the shapers of ideas and innovation. If anything, a successful agenda on anti-corruption in Zimbabwe rests on the shoulders of young people. It therefore becomes pivotal for young people to be given platforms to engage on alternative anti-corruption interventions.

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Photo Credit: African Center for Strategic studies

## Compromised Electoral Integrity: A ritual to safeguard supremacy

By Marvellous Matswimbo

Zimbabwe's quest to attain international standards on fostering democratic principles of universal suffrage and political equality during the electoral cycle has been short-lived. Enclosed with obsessive appointments of fellow comrades from the trenches to nephews, sons, and daughters of government officials has since proved that electoral integrity is a pipeline dream. Ideally, electoral integrity is engraved on having an overarching standard that is seeded on impartiality, transparency, and professionalism in its preparation process and the electoral cycle. [Global Report 2019-2021](#) argues that over the years the globe has experienced a regression in democracy with fewer aggregate data in the decline in electoral integrity between 2012 and 2021.



The Perceptions of Electoral Integrity Index 2012 – 2021 scored Zimbabwe 41 and identified it as a “**closed democracy**”. Alluding to the Electoral Integrity Project, Zimbabwe is a “**closed anocracy**” where only the elite competes and there is no equal distribution or access to power by ordinary citizens.

Consequently, it is of public interest to dissect the appointment of commissioner Abigail Mohadi with several imminent questions that are motivated by debunking why Zimbabwe has a long-standing record of electoral contestation in electoral courts over years.

There is continued fear of electoral fraud, vote buying, vote manipulation, delay in announcing election results, and safeguarding of voting

campaigns and voter education among others. These fears are founded on the persistent lack of trust in the system and institutions that comes across as a captured entities with gatekeepers.

The community sounding board has called this an act of nepotism after they disregarded the performance of the Commissioner in the Public Interviews asserting that her performance was neither here nor there. Hence, there is a need to advocate for the independence of ZEC and strengthen its capacity in terms of making sure that the selection process does not depend on the President’s grace. Public Interviews is an act of a smoke mirror that is used to rubber stamp and sanitize the process.



## Reflections on the school of Integrity journey



Shanaid Pillay, 2021

The Transparency International Zimbabwe School of integrity has been an eye opener. I have learnt that corruption is not an indestructible device, it can be dealt with if every individual practice ethical leadership and cultivates integrity within themselves. I also learnt that institutions need not to be dislocated from the needs and aspirations of a society, this dismantles the chances of corruption and creates a system that individuals are confident in. Building an integrity movement could also be one of the ways to raise awareness and reduce corruption.

The School of Integrity exposed me to the realization that I have a role to play in fight against corruption and human rights injustices. The School has shaped me into becoming a person intentionally guided by good moral and ethical principles such as honesty, virtue and accountability; as well as empowering me to resist, refuse and report corrupt. Preventing corruption unlocks progress towards sustainable development goals, helps protect our planet, realises job creation, achievement of gender equality and securing wider access to essential services such as healthcare and education, to mention a few.

The youths should take part in this initiative because fighting corruption is a collective task where every citizen has a crucial role especially the youths who are the active population and leaders of both today and tomorrow.



Tapiwa Nyamukapa, 2021

I was pleased to receive cutting-edge insights from anti-corruption experts about fighting corruption in the world. It equipped me with the skills, resources and knowledge on how to curb corruption. I was provided with a unique blend of international and local knowledge of corruption and anti-corruption tools that challenged me to approach the subject from a new perspective. Corruption is a complex concept to be defined and tackled. If one wants to curb corruption, one has to first of all define it which will determine how to curb it.



Daniel Moyo, 2021

## Why the school of Integrity

**A** [Transparency International report](#) found that 20 percent of young people in Zimbabwe are afraid to join anti-corruption initiatives while 35 per cent lacking knowledge on about what corruption is. The School of Integrity is an initiative to help restore trust in government institutions and encourage young people to fight for accountability and transparency.

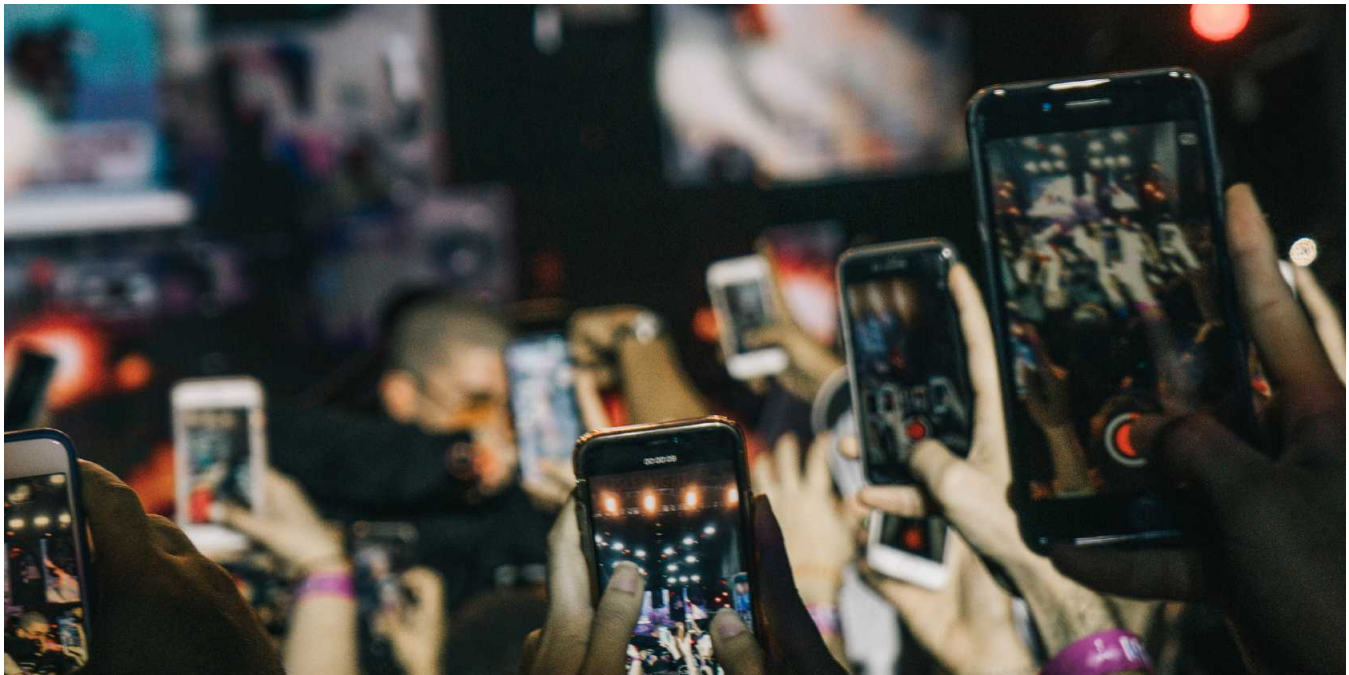
## Role played by the alumni

The students are making a significant difference. They've joined TI Z campaigns and annual multi-stakeholder engagements, calling for comprehensive whistle-blower protection laws, more transparent elections and proposing reforms for public procurement. The alumni are now working with the Accountability Monitoring Committees to identify issues of transparency and accountability in local communities.

## How do I join?

All the updates concerning the school will be posted on Transparency International Zimbabwe social media pages





“ There are classical cases where the nation has seen the likes of Hopwell Chin’ono getting massive coverage on traditional media for their arrests and less or none on high profile corruption scandals he has unearthed.

## Re-imagining the role of media in the fight against corruption

By Ntandoyenkosi Mpande

Transparency International (TI) Corruption Perception Index (CPI) 2021 ranked Zimbabwe 157 out of the 180 nations with a score of 23% out of 100. In this regard, the findings relatively suggest that the rate of corruption is off the roof and should be firmly addressed using a multi-sectorial approach in a chase to curb it. Harnessing conservative and modern forms of media would kickstart an anti-corruption movement that has a massive reach to people across communities. Monopoly in the media has been wiped away due to technological advancements that have enhanced access to information, advanced fact checking initiatives and given the marginalized and oppressed a voice to resist, reject and report corruption.

Over the years, media has been used as a tool to bring visibility to various issues. It has constantly been used as a voice for the voiceless and an information outlet for public consumption, however, in its application, it has had its fair share of susceptibility to abuse on enveloping issues of corruption. It has been used as an instrument to perpetuate propaganda, bending narratives to serve the piper (Mungwari, 2017). In the Zimbabwean context this has been highly expressed as **“Protecting the gains of our sovereignty”**.

The complexities around media and communication as a broad entity make it a viable and powerful instrument for emancipation, capacitation, and transformation. Both traditional and modern media and mass communication channels inform, enlighten, educate, and transform communities.

Mainstream media houses have been alleged to be gate keepers that have fed courts of public opinion nothing but other than a dose of information that exonerates the beloved one. It has also spewed a lot of misinformation that has weakened most social accountability frameworks and efforts in the anti-corruption agenda.

Media outlets have always embraced the power to sift, package and censor information. They



decide on what is news through making sure that some content never sees the light of the day. transparent reporting becomes difficult, ingenuine and exaggerated. For example, in a case involving a high profile public procurement of goods and services scandal, state media inflated the money that was paid in Drax tender using a headline that read US\$60m NatPharm tender awarded to Drax International.

The scale in which these corruption issues is underplayed nor rubbished therefore, intensifying the lack of trust by communities on information given. There is need to restore trust in the media fraternity so as to build capacity in

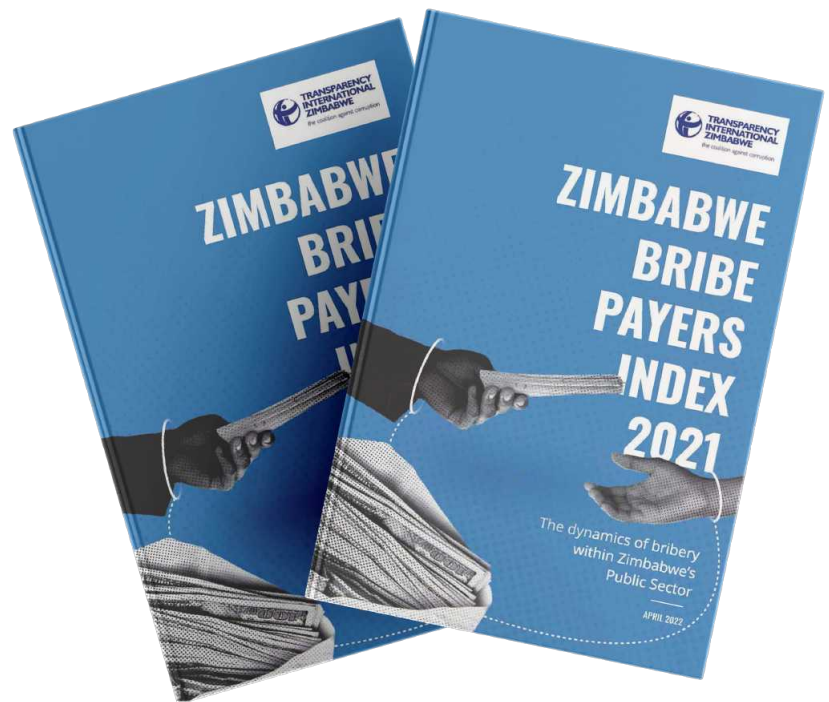
the fight against corruption. Consequently, realizing and adopting new media trends that are independent, accessible, authentic and credible, such as blogs, newsletters, vlogs and podcasts will reinforce the broader anti-corruption agenda roping everyone in the movement.

From the two stories, it is evident that these stories were not fully covered by the state media where as private players even engaged the digital platforms to fully probe into the issues. However the statistical representation of the findings from the private players may not be known to be true or an exaggeration of facts. Furthermore, since the narratives are politicized, one may not be sure as to whether probing of facts is for the betterment of the people at large or just to portray a political party in a positive light and the other in a negative light. From the exemplified issues it then becomes clear that it is difficult for media to fully expose all cases of corruption they come across as most cases some information may be withdrawn and politically inclined.

## Food for thought

Where as policies and laws can be adopted and legislated, political will cannot, and it remains an integral part of fighting corruption.

# Reflections on the Transparency International Zimbabwe National Bribery Payers Index and Future anti- corruption Interventions



By Mbongeni Nhliziyo

Following a series of publications and literature from the 10<sup>th</sup> Edition of the Global Corruption Barometer (GCB) of 2019, public sector institutions are the face of systematic corruption. GCB asserts that 1 in 4 people pay bribes to access public services. The recently published Transparency International Zimbabwe (TI Z) National Bribery Payers Index 2021 (NBPI) notes that the Zimbabwe Republic Police, Vehicle Inspection Department, and the Registrar General's office are the top three government departments susceptible to bribe-taking. This practice has been dressed with countless fancy names in a pursuit to cleanse the act. Many call it *"Imali yedrink/ mari yecold drink"* while others call it an *"Appreciation fee"*.

Citizens are losing an average of 10 percent of their monthly income to corruption with 54.4% of the total number of respondents having been asked to pay bribes in the last 12 months (NBPI 2022). As it appears to be a herculean task to

combat corruption in Zimbabwe, it is equally devastating uprooting it since managers are also implicated in these corrupt activities. **Tafadzwa Chikumbu**, the Executive Director of TI Z during the NBPI launch averred that it has proved difficult to fight corruption due to a shift and transfer of corrupt activities to the private entity.

As such, interventions to address corruption must be aimed at building and strengthening institutional capacity in dealing with bribery and improving access to quality service delivery.

This can be done through prescribing remedies that are aligned to the country's key policy documents that were developed to combat corruption and boost sustainable development. These stretch from the likes of the completed Transitional Stabilization Program and Vision 2030 to the recently minted National Development Strategy.





**From left:** Mr. Tafadzwa Chikumbu, TI Z Executive Director, Dr. Berthollet Kaboru, Deputy Head of Mission and Head of Development Cooperation at the Embassy of Sweden, and Commissioner Kuziva Murapa launching the 2021 NBPI Report

Ostensibly, these policies seek to improve public sector transparency and accountability, reduce corruption, and strengthen institutions of accountability. Against this backdrop, it is noted that these mentioned government policies intersect with NBPI and the objectives of TIZ as they envisage implementing anti-corruption mechanisms of prevention, reporting, and prosecuting across the spectrum.

There is a need for comprehensive resource mobilization and allocation of resources to have a robust anti-corruption strategy that will usher in transparency, foster integrity, and instill

accountability. CSOs must intensify civic education and capacitate citizens not only to report corruption but to demand the timely provision of quality public goods. Also, civil servants must be well remunerated since NBPI findings state that some of the reasons why government officials take bribes are due to low compensation on salaries. Finally, there is a need for sincerity and political will from the government in dealing with corruption. Whereas policies and laws can be adopted and legislated, political will cannot, and it remains an integral part of fighting corruption. All exercise will be futile without it.



## School of Integrity Job fair

The alumni engaging young people in the communities and disseminating information to potential applicants on the importance being part of the school of Integrity 2022 and after.



# ANTI-CORRUPTION INDABA



TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL ZIMBABWE  
The Coalition Against Corruption



(From Left) Hon. Mliswa (APNAC Zimbabwe), Commissioner Makamure (ZACC), Mr. Reza (NPA) and Mr. Gondo (PRAZ)



*(From Left) A representative from the French Embassy and Executive Director of TI Z tAFADZWA chikumbu*



Participants following the discussions during the Anti Corruption Indaba 2022

The graphic features the letters 'F', 'A', and 'Q' in white on blue 3D block letters. To the right, the words 'ON DEVOLUTION' are written in white on a blue rectangular background.

### What is devolution?

**D**evolution is the delegation of power from central government to local authorities. Devolution aims to give powers of local governance to the people and enhance their participation in the exercise of the powers of the State and in making decisions affecting them.

### What does the law say about devolution?

The concept of devolution is enshrined in section 264 of the Constitution of Zimbabwe and in other pieces of subsidiary legislation such as the Urban Council Act (Chapter 29:15), Rural Councils Act (Chapter 29:13), Regional and Town and Country Planning Act (Chapter 29:12), Rural Councils and Administration Act (Chapter 29:11) and Provincial Councils and Administrative Act (Chapter 29:11). Section 264 of the Constitution provides for devolution of governmental powers as well as responsibilities, section 265 provides for the general principles that governs the devolution of power.

### What are devolution funds?

Funds that are being disbursed by the government to local authorities to fund capital projects in order to assist the poorest in terms of service delivery.

### What is the law regulating devolution funds?

Currently, there is no regulating legislation on how devolution funds are to be disbursed and spent.

### How are devolution funds disbursed?

Section 301 (3) of the Constitution of Zimbabwe, notes that not less than 5% of the national revenues must be allocated to the provincial, metropolitan and local tiers of Government.

### How can devolution funds be monitored by citizens?

In order to enhance the practice of social accountability in the use of devolution funds, there is need to promote social auditing and monitoring. Social audits are meant to promote transparency and increase accountability in specific projects run under the fund. How can citizens be involved in devolution?

### How can citizens be involved in devolution?

Section 264 of the Constitution of Zimbabwe provides for citizen participation in decision making. There is need for the creation or strengthening of mechanisms that enable citizens to participate in the planning process.

### Is there political will to put devolution in practice?

Even though, the pace at which the concept is being implemented is slow, in that there is still no Enabling Act, the stipulation of devolution in the Constitution of Zimbabwe and the fact that the President chairs the Cabinet Committee on Devolution by the President shows that the government intends to follow through with devolution. There is also the promotion of devolution by Ministers of State for provincial Affairs which points out to the government political will.

*Accountability charters*

These are entered into by the local authority and the residents of the province. Getting the local authority to sign such a contract is a way of spurring commitment towards ensuring high standards of efficiency and effectiveness in the expenditure of devolution.

*Use of performance indicators*

There is need to introduce a system of setting performance indicators that are measurable and verifiable, to help in the monitoring and evaluation of projects run under the devolution funds.

*Publicity of Devolution Funded projects*

To further promote transparency in devolution disbursements, there is need to publicise the projects being funded by the Fund, from expenditure to level of progress for each project currently being funded.

**IDENTIFY KEY INTEGRITY AND COMPLIANCE WORDS IN THIS PUZZLE**

Send your answers [chrystobel@tizim.org](mailto:chrystobel@tizim.org) and stand a chance to win prizes

I A D Z T F Y B R E M S I M L B U V N U R T Z L  
X E U W N H T C U D N O C F O E D O C H W C Z O  
H I Z P S L U L W C F K D U A R F I T N A R S J  
Y B O S M H P M N T C E P S E R M A G U C E C A  
X S T G T L R N A Z W O W M D O C X R T C D M G  
Y N A V V Y I Q A N A R M C U C T P P R P I W D  
T I R A S Y N C N G R W A P P K J J A I B B J N  
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E S E C T R Q T Q S C I H T E Y M M R Q U C N Q  
R I E Y B E S P Q T W B D K M Q S I N S R X Z F  
C D C R E W Z T T V B S H S F N X R T Z W N L N



**ABOUT US**

Transparency International Zimbabwe (TI Z) is a non-profit, non-partisan systems oriented local chapter of the international movement against corruption

**OUR VISION**

A Zimbabwean society free from all forms and practices of corruption

**OUR MISSION**

We exist to promote good governance by fostering a culture of accountability, transparency and integrity through research based advocacy, public education/ awareness, policy advice and institutional monitoring.

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