

SPEAKUP

AGAINST CORRUPTION

TAURA. KHULUMA



OCT ISSUE

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A School of Integrity Newsletter

Director's Note



Welcome to the second edition of our Speak Up Newsletter where we bring on debates on anti-corruption issues and initiatives in Zimbabwe. This edition highlights everyday experiences of corruption and debates in the extractive sector, gender dynamics, local governance, and corruption within the healthcare sector. Transparency International Zimbabwe believes that institutions play a critical role in the fight against corruption. There is a need to invest in strengthening institutions such as parliament, local authorities, and anti-corruption institutions. These are important in ensuring horizontal and vertical accountability. This month's edition of Speak UP gives an overview of the work of TI Z in various sectors and its efforts in strengthening institutions. The issues raised are led by young people who are joining the broader campaign of speaking up and playing their part in the fight against corruption. Involving young people in combating corruption is an important step we are taking because young people are an integral element for the success of a cultural change in attitudes and behavior towards corruption and the shaping of the values of tomorrow.

As part of our communication strategies, we created this newsletter to stay in touch with our different stakeholders. I am pleased to inform you that Transparency International Zimbabwe will be launching a youth-focused podcast that raises debates on corruption and governance to the fore. The podcast is set to be launched in mid-November 2022. Also, TI Z will be launching the School of Integrity for emerging leaders. I encourage young people to be on the lookout for this exciting opportunity to interact with regional and global leaders in anti-corruption work.

HAPPY READING!

Tafadzwa Chikumbu

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Upcoming Events

1 December
World AIDS Day

6 December
Human Rights day

09 December
International Anti-Corruption
Day

Transparency International Zimbabwe's footprint in the Anti-corruption Movement

By Keith Sibanda

Accredited as a national chapter in 2001, TI Z has had milestones in shaping the national anti-corruption discourse over the past 25 years. Its watchdog role has since expanded, shifting attention to empowering marginalised communities that remain disenfranchised by mutating corruption trends across board. Investing in Accountability Monitoring Committees (AMCs) has proved to be a sustainable framework in Transparency International Zimbabwe's (TI Z) anti-corruption crusade, building solid community structures that have kept track of how community resources are being utilised.

Thus, strengthening transparency and accountability mechanisms. Owing to continued efforts in capacitating societies, TI Z has recorded an abrupt increase in social liability initiatives that have lived to see a better quality of transparency and accountability in the administration of ward retention and community development funds. Hence, it has been noted that fighting corruption from a grassroots level feeds into a broader spectrum of the national anti-corruption agenda proved by testimonies shared during a 2022 cross-cutting marathon of AMC conferences in TI Z's three regions.





FIG 1: Group photo during the AMC Conference in Bulawayo

All three regional offices conducted AMC Conferences, where community members were reflecting on the strides taken in the anti-corruption mantra through existing community structures. Efforts in demanding transparency and accountability from duty bearers encompassed hosting Social Accountability Community meetings, women empowerment circles, social accountability interface meetings,

and policy dialogues. Key takeaways from community engagements include (1) the importance of coming up with anti-corruption strategies from grassroots levels (2) having a collective stakeholder approach in the fight against corruption (3) Community-led advocacy in the anti-corruption to foster inclusion and active participation in policy formulation and implementation.

Use of infographics and packages to enhance the anti-corruption movement

Transparency International Zimbabwe designs information packages that unpack data sets on research reports. These are multidimensional thematic packages on resource management, asset recovery, government budgets, public procurement, and policy briefs that capacitate communities with knowledge allowing them to develop remedies for any challenges related to corruption. Through TI Z's online information repository that brings discernibility to issues of

corruption, there are publications like the 2021 National Bribe Payers Index which elicits on the state of corruption regarding cases of bribes in various Government Departments. In the scope of TI Z's work, there has been impeccable evidence gathering in understanding the dynamic of corruption and how is perceived through the start of the art research on various sectors

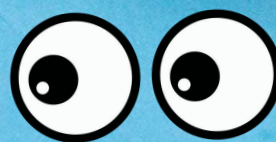


Fostering partnerships to strengthen the anti-corruption movement

The anti-corruption drive can only be a success if state and non-state actors build consensus in facilitating the national anti-corruption agenda. There is need for a holistic approach in encouraging collaboration to ultimately reduce levels of corruption. Transparency International

Zimbabwe has since created signages with a number of government departments through the signing of Memorandum of Understandings (MOU) with the Zimbabwe Anti-corruption Commission (ZACC) and the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) in an effort to strengthen institutional capacity in executing institutional mandates in the fight against corruption.

CORRUPTION WATCH



Transparency International Zimbabwe (TI Z) is closely monitoring corruption trends across board. The latest developments have highlighted traces of unaccounted for COVID 19 funds by NetOne. In bid to track COVID 19 funds, TI Z developed a COVID 19 resource tracker with a list of companies and institutions allocated funds by the Zimbabwean government. findings presented in the Auditor General (AG's) Report titled **“Special Audit Report of the Auditor-General on the Covid-19 Pandemic Financial Management and Utilization of Public Resources in the Country’s Provinces”** were conspicuous on an alleged act of poor management of COVID 19 funds released to support a COVID 19 relief scheme.

Through a joint action towards unearthing corruption and maladministration, TI Z and The NewsHawks’ investigation excavated evidenced on NetOne’s inability to account for funds amounting to US\$1 million. Between 19 May and 12 December 2022 Netone was disbursing funds to the vulnerable and marginalized individuals through their mobile money transfer platform. Findings from this

investigation unbundled a discovery on how the service providers deliberately provided and used incorrect beneficiary information, making it difficult for individuals to access relief funds.



In partnership with residents' associations and other civil society entities, TI Z rejected the imposed opaque Pomona Waste Energy Project deal concluded by the Harare City Council through a Build, Own, Operate and

across. Despite its ambition to solve the waste management crisis in the capital, the deal lacks a sustainable framework and it inflicts a financial burden on the rate payers. Details of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOU) remain



Transfer (BOOT) joint venture agreement with Geoginix B.V on the 9th of March 2022. They demanded for transparent and accountable governing frames that will pave a way for climate and debt justice within Harare and

sketchy and private. This lacks transparency and accountability which is pivotal in cementing good governance. Due to continued joint advocacy efforts, the deal has since been halted.

FREE LEGAL ADVICE

ON CORRUPTION-RELATED CASES
THROUGH ADVOCACY AND LEGAL
ADVICE CENTRE (ALAC)

WHAT IS ALAC ?

ALAC is a Transparency International Zimbabwe's initiative that provides free legal aid services to victims and witnesses of corruption. ALAC serves as a platform for citizens, corporate bodies and all the legal persons resident in Zimbabwe to participate more effectively in the fight against corruption by reporting cases of alleged corruption for necessary action.

ALAC seeks to fill the gap and provide the avenue for people and corporate bodies who have either become victims or witnesses of corrupt practices to lodge their complaints with the appropriate institutions for redress.

ALAC strongly believes that people are usually apathetic in the face of corruption because they are not provided with the simple, credible and viable mechanisms to effectively deal with it. The ALAC concept is therefore Transparency International's response to the apathy and helplessness of victims and witnesses of corruption.

ALAC focuses on combating corruption through providing support and legal advice to victims and witnesses of corruption. In order to help citizens hold their governments and service providers accountable for their actions, it also seeks to advocate for protection of whistle-blowers. ALAC does this at no cost to the complainant/ witnesses.

OUR AIM

- To empower citizens to make and pursue corruption and related complaints;
- To provide legal advice and assistance to victims and witnesses of corruption;
- To ensure that witnesses and victims of corruption has access to fair and equitable Justice system.
- To refer complaints to appropriate public institutions such as ZACC;
- To build synergies with civil society organisations with similar objectives to broaden the frontiers of a just, fair and caring society in Zimbabwe that is free of corruption;
- To educate the public on corruption and related issues;
- To change behaviour at the citizen level so that they can reject corruption and take concrete measures to combat it

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Contrast and revenue transparency: A boon for Zimbabwe's Mega Mining deals

Exploration of mineral resources by external companies in developing countries is nothing unorthodox in the context of politics and development. In [‘The mining industry in Zimbabwe: labour, capital and the state’](#) it is argued that by 1980, nearly 95% of the country's mineral outputs were produced and controlled by foreign companies. Considering today's mineral extraction activities, mining covenants continue to stroke debates in the anti-corruption movement, as they fall short of open and accountable yokes of resource management and revenue transparency.

During the Zimbabwe Alternative Mining Indaba held in Bulawayo between the 5th and the 9th of September 2022, Transparency International Zimbabwe (TI Z) in conjunction with Zimbabwe Environmental Law Association (ZELA) and Publish What You Pay glaring issues were unearthed, exposing how difficult it is to challenge irregular mining activities due to the inability to access information on most mining contracts issued. Despite having legal frameworks that provide and

promote the enjoyment of this right, it has rather been difficult to fully explore and protect it.

After screening a documentary titled PWYP - Zim calls for equitable benefit sharing by the extractive industries it is undisputable that communities are at the receiving end of the whip. They continue to face displacement and loss of livestock due to hostile environmental impacts and asymmetric contractual agreements. In most cases, these contracts are regarded as classified pacts that lack public disclosure and are alleged to be only serving the pied piper.

Results are fatal as communities continue to languish in poverty, leaving nothing other than devastating environmental scourges and deepened opportunities for corruption. Communities from mining towns like Zvishavane, Chiadzwa, Domboshava, and Mutoko have lambasted both the government and mining firms for deliberately ignoring their existence and green lighting resource extraction without consulting local communities.



They have labeled this as poor governance that has no bearing on the broader idea of sustainable development, while countries like Denmark have managed to build one of the world's state-of-the-art libraries, the People from Mutoko continue to languish in poverty.

Overbearing challenges faced by communities in host mining towns fall within the frame of sustainable development which has been stalled by enormous negligence by the government and mining companies. Some of the root causes cited speak to weak terms of reference agreed upon during contract negotiations which later translate not just to the alleged forfeiture of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) procedures but also the overbearing risk of communities not knowing the contents carried in the contract to effective advocacy. There is a need to have a legal framework that cements the right to information to capacitate communities in demanding transparency and accountability. Contracts should be made public and allow public scrutiny.

Publish What You Pay Zimbabwe maintains that in curbing detrimental effects of withdrawn public disclosure of contracts signed between mining firms and the host government, there is a need to strike balance when it comes to negotiating power. ZELA believes that Mining companies have a renowned standing in negotiating as compared to government representatives. Many at times government representatives lack knowledge of geology and

profitability when going for mining contract negotiations. Henceforth, the mining sector has failed to live to its potential. Its projected value is estimated to be at US \$12 billion by 2023 magnifies major concerns in resource exploration by external firms as they depend on skills and knowledge that host governments have when negotiating. Negotiating blindly runs the risk of disadvantaging undervaluing resources in the Great Dyke region and massive platinum and ore deposits.

Contract and revenue transparency investigates reducing any possible opportunities for corruption through a monitored and responsible investment of revenue generated. Government and mining firms should release information on how much revenue has been generated to effect accountability and transparency. This will further strengthen relations between government, mining companies, and communities ensuring trust. It will also promote good governance, allowing communities to have public oversight of extractive sector agreements.

Adopting global standards of open and accountable management of natural resources specified in the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative will allow Zimbabwe to foster contract and revenue transparency. It will also assist in strengthening public oversight on the nature of agreements that the government will have with external mining firms making sure that they are not exploitative, there is no tax evasion and undervaluing of resources.



**TRANSPARENCY
INTERNATIONAL
ZIMBABWE**

The Coalition Against Corruption



2022

SCHOOL OF INTEGRITY

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A chance to meet and interact with local, regional and international experts in a 7 day course on corruption and governance.

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First hand interaction with governance institutions

Mentorship by experts in policy, governance entrepreneurship and academic circles

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**#PLAY
YOUR
PART**





Breaking the bias against sextortion

By Stephen Chidhau

The adverse impact of sextortion is severely felt by women because of the largely overlooked gender inequalities that have serious implications on development. There is not much progress regarding the implementation of constitutional reforms in Zimbabwe although various promises were made thus painting a gloomy picture on ensuring gender equality.

This year 2022, Transparency International Zimbabwe (TIZ) joined other organisations in commemorating International Women's Day (IWD2022). The theme "Gender equality today for a sustainable tomorrow" is an eloquent testimony that women are a part of a sustainable tomorrow and that they should be granted equal opportunities in every field, irrespective of gender. Sextortion is a major barrier to realising these opportunities.

Sextortion usually occurs when a person with entrusted authority abuses this authority to obtain a

sexual favour in exchange for a service or benefit which is within their power to grant or withhold.

Women in Zimbabwe are the most vulnerable to sextortion as a result of the deteriorating economy. Zimbabwe has recorded an unprecedented number of women reporting being forced to exchange sex for employment or business favours. More than 57% of women surveyed by Transparency International Zimbabwe (www.tizim.org) said they had been forced to offer sexual favours in exchange for jobs, medical care, and even when seeking placements at schools for their children.

In all sectors of women's daily experiences, there is patriarchal power that can expose vulnerable women to corruption and enable corruption to be a definite dimension of gender inequality. This is especially true for women who experience compounded marginalisation as indigenous women, elderly women, widows, ill or disabled women.

Widespread corruption and a deteriorating economy in Zimbabwe have contributed to the rise in sextortion. Although the country is making progress in advancing gender equality through the establishment of various institutional, legal, and policy frameworks, women continue to experience corrupt demands for sexual favours in exchange for money, work benefits, access to land and markets.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Women should be allowed equal participation in governance institutions and processes, freedom of association, and space for an active women's movement.
- Transparency and gender equity in the allocation of resources are a must.
- Legislation of gender equality and the promotion and protection of women's rights.
- Development of a legal definition and framework for sextortion, to enable adequate prosecution of cases.
- Integrate sextortion into both anti-corruption and gender-based violence policies, programs, and regulations to ensure greater complementarity.
- Launch public campaigns to raise awareness about sextortion as a form of corruption, and encourage victims to come forward, speak up and seek redress.
- Provide safe, confidential, and gender-sensitive reporting mechanisms that can give victims of sextortion access to appropriate support resources when needed.



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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