



## **Press Statement: Developments around procurements in the Public Interest: Health Sector**

**Harare, 10 May 2023.** Transparency International Zimbabwe (TI Z) notes the recent withdrawal of the General Notice 635 of 2023 which purported to place procurement of certain goods outside public scrutiny on grounds of “national interest”. The retraction is a befitting action as such a notice has no place in an open and democratic society.

TI Z takes this opportunity to reiterate to the Government of Zimbabwe on the need to remain alive to basic tenants of public procurement that are: *transparency, accountability, fairness and integrity*. For TI Z, it is within the public interest that all procurement processes are subject to open and transparent public scrutiny and evaluation **to promote accountability and fair bidding processes**. Shrouding public procurement in secrecy does not only create monopolies, collusive tendencies, but promotes fruitless and wasteful expenditure of public resources resulting in continued poor service delivery.

In a report presented by TI Z on corruption in the Health Care Sector (2021), opportunities for corruption emerge when officials have discretion in making decisions, there is monopoly by the political elite, limited accountability and weak oversight from citizens. The integrity of procurement process assures confidence in the public procurement process, and the importance thereof cannot be overemphasised. Repeatedly the Auditor General’s reports have pointed out that there are increased corrupt practices that are inherent within the public procurement processes in most public sector institutions. It is disheartening to note that most of the important observations and recommendations from the Auditor General’s audit reports remain outstanding, neither has there been any conclusive prosecution of high-profile corruption cases.

Transparency International Zimbabwe therefore calls upon the government to be more deliberate and result oriented in its fight against corruption, especially at a time when service provision and delivery in most public entities has been severely compromised.

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