



**TRANSPARENCY
INTERNATIONAL
ZIMBABWE**

the coalition against corruption

SEMINAR PAPER #2 2024

REFLECTIONS ON THE NATIONAL ANTICORRUPTION STRATEGY (NACS-1 2020-2024) AND PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS FOR THE SUCCESSOR STRATEGY

About Transparency International Zimbabwe

Transparency International Zimbabwe (TI Z) is a non-profit, non-partisan, systems-oriented local chapter of the international movement against corruption. Its broad mandate is to fight corruption and promote transparency, accountability, and integrity at all levels and across all sectors of society. TI Z believes corruption can only be sufficiently tackled by all citizens including people at grassroots level.

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AMU	Asset Management Unit
AU	African Union
CPI	Corruption Perception Index
CSOs	Civil society organisations
FIU	Financial Intelligence Unit
GoZ	Government of Zimbabwe
IFFs	illicit financial flows
IILs	Integrity Innovation labs
JSC	Judicial Service Commission
MoFED	Ministry of Finance and Economic Development (MoFED)
NACS	National Anticorruption Strategy
NACSSC	National Anticorruption Strategy Steering Committee
NPA	National Prosecuting Authority
OAG	Office of the Auditor-General
OPC	Office of the President and Cabinet
PACU	Police Anticorruption Unit
PFM	Public Financial Management
PRAZ	Procurement Regulatory Authority of Zimbabwe
SAFU	Special Anticorruption Unit
SSA	Sub-Saharan Africa
STR	Suspicious Transaction Reports
TI Z	Transparency International Zimbabwe
UNCAC	United Nations Convention Against Corruption
ZACC	Zimbabwe Anticorruption Commission
ZIMCODD	Zimbabwe Coalition on Debt and Development
ZIMRA	Zimbabwe Revenue Authority
ZRP	Zimbabwe Republic Police
ZTN	Zimpapers Television Network

1 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

Transparency International Zimbabwe (TI Z) believes that corruption can be effectively addressed in an environment with strong democratic values. In this regard, TI Z's work is built on a belief that people-centred and accountable governance systems and processes are central to transparency. TI Zimbabwe's work is anchored on **engagement, consultation, transparency, integrity, and participation**. Since its inception, TI Z has strategically partnered with the private and public sectors, with a focus on advancing good governance. The organisation's work has consistently focused on preventing and combating corruption, within its non-partisan values and approaches.

Corruption remains rampant despite the existence of a legal and institutional framework to address it. Various forms of corruption have been noted, ranging from petty corruption such as bribery in the delivery of public services to grand corruption involving large-scale embezzlement of public funds and abuse of office. The endemic and systemic corruption remains a threat to sustainable development as the country loses resources that could potentially be channelled towards public service delivery and economic development. Corruption has fuelled inequalities and undermined fair access

to essential services and the enjoyment of human rights. In turn, this affects civic participation, public service delivery and viable economic activity. Without effectively curbing corruption, efforts to eradicate poverty, and to achieve national stability through improved human security, based on a more equal and fair society remain an unattainable goal for Zimbabweans.

Zimbabwe continues to fare poorly on various governance indices such as the Transparency International Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI). The 2023 CPI gave the country a score of 24 out of 100¹ and a rank

of 149 out of 180 countries. The country has consistently scored below the Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) score. Such poor performances can be attributed to weak anticorruption institutions, lack of coordination amongst institutions and poor implementation of anticorruption legal instruments. This has generally contributed to limited trust and the rise of a corruption culture in Zimbabwe. The lack of coordination between the various institutions was coupled with the lack of clarity by citizens on how, and to whom they should channel their concerns or reports on corrupt activities occurring in their communities.

¹ The score is calculated on a scale where 0 refers to 'most corrupt' and 100 represents 'most clean'.

In view of the foregoing, TI Z tables this discussion paper to share with stakeholders some reflections on the National Anticorruption Strategy (NACS), and recommendations for the successor document. These perspectives are gleaned from various reports by thematic subcommittees of the National Anticorruption Strategy Steering Committee (NACSSC). From

the outset, TI Z acknowledges the NACS as a groundbreaking initiative in Zimbabwe's efforts to combat widespread corruption. Indeed, the NACS aimed to develop a comprehensive strategy for combating corruption by tackling important areas such as institutional capacity, legal reforms, public involvement, and international cooperation.

Though the strategy has a good foundation and goals, however, its full efficacy has been hampered by several operational issues, such as political interference, limited resources to fund all its objectives, and inadequate enforcement mechanisms. TI Z therefore hopes that stakeholders will take cognisance of these issues in crafting a successor document.

2 BACKGROUND OF NACS 1

Zimbabwe is a signatory to key international anticorruption conventions, including the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC) and the African Union (AU) Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption. These instruments oblige the State to take concrete steps towards combating corruption. Article 5 of the UNCAC requires State Parties to develop and implement well-coordinated anticorruption policies, strategies and practices that promote the participation of both the public and private sectors and citizens at large. The NACS therefore defines the country's priority and objectives to prevent and combat corruption. Officially launched in July 2020, with the theme "*Enhancing Integrity, Accountability, and Transparency in Zimbabwe*" the strategy was meant to guide the country's anticorruption initiatives over five years from 2020 to 2024. It includes action plans and a monitoring and evaluation plan to track the progress of the implementation thereof.

The NACS therefore defines the country's priority and objectives to prevent and combat corruption. Officially launched in July 2020, with the theme "Enhancing Integrity, Accountability, and Transparency in Zimbabwe" the strategy was meant to guide the country's anticorruption initiatives over five years from 2020 to 2024.

3 THE OBJECTIVES OF THE NACS

With the foregoing in mind, Zimbabwe's NACS was created to fight corruption and promote accountability, integrity, and transparency in both the public and private spheres. The following are the NACS's primary goals:

- i. Establish a Coordinated National Approach:** Through creating a coordinated and unified approach to fighting corruption across all sectors of government and society. It sought to consolidate efforts by various anticorruption bodies, law enforcement agencies, and civil society organisations to work together towards common goals.
- ii. Strengthen Anticorruption Institutions:** Through the strengthening of key anticorruption institutions, particularly the Zimbabwe Anticorruption Commission (ZACC). The strategy emphasised enhancing the capacity, authority, and operational independence of ZACC to carry out its investigations effectively.
- iii. Enhance Legal and Regulatory Frameworks:** It aimed to strengthen Zimbabwe's legal and regulatory systems to plug gaps that allowed corruption to flourish. This involved passing new legislation to combat newly emerging kinds of corruption as well as updating current anticorruption laws and policies.
- iv. Improve Public Awareness and Participation:** By educating the public on the detrimental impacts of corruption and encouraging them to actively participate in the reporting of unethical practices. This included running educational programs and setting up forums where people could report corruption in an anonymous manner/ as whistleblowers.
- v. To improve the Detection and Investigation of Corruption:** By making investments in cutting-edge techniques, instruments, and technology for identifying corruption, such as digital monitoring systems and forensic accounting. This included giving law enforcement organisations the tools and training they needed to investigate corruption allegations thoroughly and promptly, guaranteeing that they are handled impartially and professionally.
- vi. Recover Stolen Assets and Combat Illicit Financial Flows:** It focused on tracing, freezing, and recovering assets acquired through corrupt practices, both domestically and internationally. In the same vein, strengthening

the measures to address money laundering and illicit financial flows (IFFs). It also placed a strong emphasis on recovering stolen assets and preventing the occurrence of corruption, particularly in public procurement processes. It sought to introduce transparency measures in government contracting and resource allocation to limit opportunities for corruption.

vii. Building International and Regional Cooperation: strengthening partnerships with international organisations and regional bodies to combat cross-border corruption, recover stolen assets, and

enhance technical cooperation. It also sought to ensure that Zimbabwe's anticorruption efforts align with global standards, such as the UNCAC and the AU Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption.

viii. Ensure Effective Monitoring and Evaluation: through setting up measurable performance indicators to track progress in implementing the NACS, ensuring that the objectives are being met and that the strategy is adaptable based on evaluation findings.

ix. Regular Reporting: through transparent and periodic

reporting on the progress of anticorruption efforts to the public and stakeholders, reinforcing accountability and enabling adjustments to the strategy as needed.

In addition to the above, the NACS aims to address how various stakeholders may coordinate their anticorruption activities. It requires the National Anticorruption Strategy Steering Committee (NACSSC) to be established by the Zimbabwe Anticorruption Commission (ZACC). The NACSSC, which is composed of a range of stakeholders, oversees implementing the NACS, through the holding of frequent meetings and requiring regular reporting.

4 SUCCESS OF THE NACS

There have been some positive developments regarding the NACS's implementation since its launch in 2020 notwithstanding the larger context of persistent corruption issues in the country. The implementation of NACS was done through Subcommittees (that are aligned to the objectives), which had the responsibility to report on the progress made and challenges met whilst carrying out their respective duties and functions provided for in the Strategy. TI Z thus analysed the reports by Subcommittees and noted the following to be amongst the successes of the NACS:

i. Awareness Campaigns and Anticorruption Education

Government of Zimbabwe through various institutions, has conducted campaigns to educate citizens on the dangers of corruption and the importance of reporting it. This has contributed to a gradual shift in public attitudes toward corruption. Several programs have been introduced to train public officials on ethical conduct and integrity, aiming to build a culture of transparency within the public service. Subcommittee 2 on Corruption Prevention reported that ZACC received a total of 2,480 cases for investigations during the period under review. In addition

to this, ZACC has become more active in investigating high-profile cases, which has helped raise public awareness about the fight against corruption. This visibility has increased the pressure on public officials to maintain transparency.

Subcommittee 2 reported that a total of 5,998,558 people were reached through yes Anticorruption Awareness campaigns were carried out from 2021-2024. This was carried out by addressing people under the banner of religion, involving the Interreligious Association for Peace and Development, Islam, Catholic Commission for Peace and Justice. The Subcommittee also worked

on mainstreaming anticorruption themes through anticorruption consultations in schools and 5 Provinces were covered.

The Subcommittee also carried out virtual and physical religious anticorruption awareness campaigns totalling 4,123,494 citizens, in the 4-year cycle. These interventions resulted in the increased visibility of ZACC as the Constitutional Commission with an anticorruption mandate. It is important to note that ZACC partnered with other stakeholders such as religious groups which also have a significant following, so that the spread of the anticorruption message and the visibility of ZACC's mandate had a wider reach.

ii. Prosecution of High-Profile Corruption Cases

Some high-ranking government officials, businesspeople, and politicians have been arrested and charged with corruption. This has demonstrated a degree of political will, even if convictions have been slow to materialise. Such cases include the arrest of Justice Mayor Wadyajena, and Mike Chimombe et al, which have drawn a lot of public interest.

iii. Establishment of Special Anticorruption Courts

The specialised courts were set up to handle and fast-track corruption-related cases, helping to alleviate the backlog of corruption cases and deliver justice more efficiently. There has been evidence of stakeholder collaboration in contributing towards the efficiency of these specialised courts. For example, Subcommittee 5 on Asset Recovery reported that during the NACS implementation, ZACC received and investigated a total of 213 corruption cases, and referred 84 cases to the NPA with 18 of the cases being argued in court. Subcommittee 2 reported that a total of 556 cases were forwarded to the NPA for prosecution. 145 cases were completed during the period and 87 of these were convictions, culminating in a 70% conviction rate.

iv. Increased Public Reporting of Corruption and Whistleblower Reports

There was an increase in the number of reported cases of corruption through platforms like ZACC's anticorruption hotline and digital platforms. This demonstrates that the public is becoming more engaged in the anticorruption fight, signalling some level of trust in institutions like ZACC and other anticorruption institutions such as the police and ZIMRA among others. Subcommittee 2 reported that ZACC/ZIMRA combined efforts on the investigation of the abuse of rebates extended to civil servants by the government to import vehicles into the country duty-free. At the time of writing, over 350 vehicles had been recovered since the start of the operation.

The Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP) also highlighted that they continue to receive credible leads on investigations through Suspicious Transaction Reports (STR) from FIU and the intelligence has been useful in investigations and seizing money laundering-related assets.

Although whistleblower protection laws are still developing, there has been an increase in whistleblowing activity, with several cases being brought forward thanks to tips

from the public. With support from the TI Z, NACS conducted a physical capacity-building workshop wherein members were sensitised on the NACS document and discussed strategies in lobbying for the whistle-blower and witness protection legislation frameworks. In March 2021, Subcommittee 4 on Whistleblower Protection discussed whistleblower protection in a programme entitled *'The missing link on Zimbabwe Anticorruption Agenda'* on Zimpapers Television Network (ZTN) Television Channel. In this program, the public was enlightened on the importance of whistleblowers in the fight against corruption and encouraged the public to make anonymous reports as whistleblowers. Listed below are some of the key achievements in terms of advancing whistleblower protection:

- Developed the approved principles for the Public Interest Disclosure (Protection of Whistleblowers) Bill and the Witness Protection Bill.
- Developed and validated both Bills.
- Developed and validated the Assets and Conflict of Interest Declaration Bill.
- Developed and validated the Anticorruption Commission Bill.

v. Collaboration with International and Local Partners

Zimbabwe has improved its collaboration with international bodies such as the AU and other anticorruption organisations, enhancing the country's capacity to fight cross-border financial crimes and illicit financial flows.

Furthermore, Zimbabwe's anticorruption efforts have attracted technical and financial support from international donors and organisations, which has helped strengthen institutional capacity in some areas. For example, Subcommittee 1 on Citizen Awareness, reported that it conducted a total of 114 (Radio (72) and television (42) campaigns during the reporting period. ZACC also carried out a total of 36,089 Exhibitions and Commemorations from 2021-2024. The Subcommittee covered 15 rural districts raising anticorruption awareness on the illegal parcelling of state land. These platforms discussed topical anticorruption issues. Most of the discussions were funded by Development partners supporting ZACC.

Civil society organisations (CSOs) have been increasingly active in advocating for anticorruption measures. Their participation in monitoring government activities and holding officials accountable has added another

layer of scrutiny. For example, in November 2021, NACS Sub Committee 3 in collaboration with the Zimbabwe Coalition on Debt and Development (ZIMCODD) held a workshop in Kariba to capacitate the Subcommittee on drafting integrity pledges. A total of 10 sector-specific Integrity Pledges were drafted for the public, private sector, faith-based organisations, traditional leaders, civil society, the informal sector, political parties, councillors, senators, MPs and Academia. This initiative contributed towards capacity-building efforts, thereby expanding the reach and impact of anticorruption advocacy across different sectors. A total of 7,679 pledges were signed.

ZIMRA facilitated workshops and the signing of the Integrity Pledges by the members of the Cross Border Transporters Association in Beitbridge and Sango Border Post. On the other hand, TI Z facilitated the establishment and training of 176 institutional integrity committees. The training covered subjects on integrity committee concept, experience sharing, global approaches to operations of integrity committees, corruption risk assessment and development of integrity action plans to mitigate risks of corruption. All integrity committees that have received training are functional. However, reports have been received from more than 50% of the relevant institutions and currently, 40%

had their action plans reviewed for 2024. Out of the 107 public entities, 90% have established board integrity committees and plans are underway to engage the committee members so that they sign integrity pledges.

Additionally, the Accountability Lab Zimbabwe supported the process by implementing the Integrity Icon Campaign in partnership with the ZACC and other public institutions such as the Public Service Commission (PSC). Integrity Icon is a national campaign which seeks to celebrate and honour honest civil servants who do their work with unquestionable integrity. A total of 3 Integrity Innovation labs (IILs) have been conducted in Chitungwiza and Bulawayo reaching out to 56 participants. IILs are interactive spaces for cross-pollination of ideas, sharing challenges, and co-creating solutions.

The media has equally played a significant role in exposing corrupt activities, contributing to greater public awareness. Journalistic investigations have in most instances complemented official anticorruption efforts by focusing critical attention on cases. In addition to this, the Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation Television (ZBCTV), supported ZACC by broadcasting anticorruption programmes every Thursday. These broadcasts had a wide reach audience and carried different

messages that empowered the communities to become anticorruption champions.

vi. Introduction of Legislative and Policy Reforms

There have been efforts to strengthen anticorruption laws, such as updating the legal framework for asset forfeiture, public procurement, and financial transparency. These reforms were intended to reduce opportunities for corruption and enhance accountability. As part of the NACS, there has been a push to reform public sector processes, including public procurement systems, to increase transparency and reduce corruption risks. For instance, the Procurement Regulatory Authority of Zimbabwe (PRAZ) conducted public awareness programmes on the new procurement legislation and its implementation and building capacity of Law enforcement agencies. Subcommittee 3 conducted three training workshops with various stakeholders on electronic

government procurement (e-procurement) procedures. A total of 300 copies of procurement manuals were designed and distributed to stakeholders in the Private and Public sectors. The same goes for the efforts to put in place Whistleblower and Witness Protection laws and mechanisms, although the relevant laws are yet to be enacted.

vii. Asset Recovery Efforts

There have been efforts to recover assets acquired through corrupt means. Some high-profile cases have led to the seizure of property and funds, signalling progress in this area, even if broader asset recovery efforts are still limited.

Subcommittee 5 on Asset Recovery reported that the Asset Management Unit (AMU) managed to administer a total of 15 immovable properties and 59 motor vehicles during the NACS cycle. The value of properties under interim management amounts to USD 7,133,190. The Asset Management Unit (AMU)

attended capacity-building trainings on Money Laundering and Asset Recovery, including a benchmarking opportunity in Botswana. The National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) managed to issue Asset Forfeiture Orders amounting to a total of USD 274,9 million. These were some of the efforts implemented under NACS as far as Asset Recovery is concerned.

viii. Public Sector Accountability and Audits

There has been an increased focus on auditing public sector entities. Through the Office of the Auditor-General (OAG), several public bodies have been audited, revealing significant financial mismanagement and corruption, which has led to investigations and actions against some officials. Efforts have been made to strengthen public financial management (PFM) systems to reduce the risks of misappropriation of public funds, with some improvements seen in financial accountability.

The National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) managed to issue Asset Forfeiture Orders amounting to a total of USD 274,9 million.

5 GAPS NOTED IN THE NACS

The strategy has faced several significant challenges and failures that have undermined its effectiveness. Some of the key challenges noted include the following:

i. Weak Institutional Capacity

Many institutions responsible for implementing the NACS, such as the ZACC, lack the financial and human resources to carry out their duties effectively. As highlighted in the section above, a significant number of the interventions that were implemented under NACS were supported by partners, noting that there is no specific budget for implementing (and monitoring) NACS implementation. All things being equal, ZACC as the institutional custodian of NACS should be adequately funded to be able to fully implement the objectives under NACS. In its end-of-cycle report, Subcommittee 1 indicated that it operated without a budget and depended on well-wishers' donations to carry out some campaigns.

Subcommittee 2 on Prevention reported that they lacked

resources for investigating corruption cases. Prosecuting and investigating anticorruption matters requires significant financial, technical and human resources. Moreover, the lack of capacity/training of prosecutors and investigators to deal with ever-evolving crimes such as cyber and forensic crimes impacted the full implementation of their mandate. Sub Committee 4 on Whistleblower Protection equally raised that limited budgetary support resulted in the stalling of some of its planned activities like write shops. However, most activities were supported by ZACC and other civic partners within the Subcommittee members like TI Z.

ii. Ineffective Prosecution

The ineffective prosecution of some corruption cases has been a cause for concern during the reporting period. This has highly impacted the public trust in the

genuineness of the anticorruption agenda in Zimbabwe. One visible and undisputed factor has been that the NPA has struggled to successfully prosecute high-profile corruption cases. Despite arrests, many prominent individuals linked to corruption have not been convicted. One such example has been the case of former Minister Priscah Mupfumira which saw the accused being cleared of their charges despite all the evidence pointing to corruption. The accused was cleared on technicalities that considered her unfit to stand trial. However, that same individual was later accepted to be fit to occupy a Senate seat in Parliament.

Subcommittee 2 reported that the lack of specific anticorruption legislation governing the prosecution of anticorruption cases impeded the full implementation of NACS 1. Particularly on the time frame

within which anticorruption matters should be completed as well as the procedure. The prosecution and conclusion of cases took too long due to delaying tactics usually by defence lawyers who make numerous applications to avoid going into the merits of the matter and or finalisation of trials. This again resulted in the public losing trust in the anticorruption drive of NACS.

iii. Political Interference and Corruption within the Judiciary and Law Enforcement

There have been accusations by various stakeholders of political bias, with the anticorruption drive appearing to target opponents of the ruling party while sparing well-connected individuals. This undermines public trust in the impartiality of the system. The government's commitment to tackling corruption has been questioned. Despite the establishment of the NACS, the lack of genuine political will to confront corruption at the highest levels has hampered its success. Allegations of bribery and corruption within the judiciary have hindered fair and transparent trials. This has created a perception

that the legal system can be manipulated by those with power or wealth. The police and other law enforcement agencies have themselves been implicated in corrupt activities, which makes it difficult for them to effectively enforce anticorruption measures.

Despite numerous reports and investigations, very few high-ranking officials have been prosecuted or convicted for corruption. This creates an environment of impunity, where those in power feel untouchable. There have been instances where individuals accused of corruption have been reappointed to senior positions in government, which further undermines the credibility of the anticorruption campaign.

One of the topical cases where the government and/or political actors have been accused of interfering with the investigation and prosecution of corruption cases has been that of Chivhayo, Chimombe and Mpofu. The state has been accused by stakeholders of interfering with the case to save Chivhayo at the expense of the other two co-accused persons. Another example has been the case of Justice Mayor Wadyajena, in which forfeited trucks were then cleared under unclear circumstances. The

public therefore seems to have a negative perception of ZACC based on the perception of the 'catch and release' of suspects under unclear circumstances.

iv. Slow Pace of Reforms and the Economic situation

While the NACS has focused on fighting corruption, there has been little progress in addressing the root macro-level causes, such as poor governance, weak institutions, and a lack of transparency in public procurement processes. The economic situation in the country has resulted in increased cases of corruption especially in the public sector. To fully deal with public sector corruption, conditions of service for government employees need to improve, otherwise all the anticorruption efforts will continue to be sabotaged. The deepening economic crisis in Zimbabwe has exacerbated corruption. As public sector salaries remain low, many government employees engage in corrupt practices to supplement their incomes, making corruption even more widespread.

A case in point is a report by Subcommittee 2 which reported that a collaboration by ZACC/ ZIMRA combined efforts on the

As public sector salaries remain low, many government employees engage in corrupt practices to supplement their incomes, making corruption even more widespread.

investigation of the abuse of rebates extended to civil servants by the government to import vehicles into the country duty-free. Over 350 vehicles have been recovered since the start of the operation to date. This case is an example of the extent to which the gaps in addressing the economic situation have resulted in the abuse of systems within the public service and fuelling corruption.

v. Failure to Protect Whistleblowers

The failure to fully implement or enforce robust whistleblower protection laws has deterred

individuals from coming forward with information on corrupt practices. Subcommittee 2 reported that witness intimidation and lack of witness protection have been one of the factors that affected their mandate. It was highlighted that witnesses in corruption cases often face threats, intimidation and retaliation. Resultantly individuals were reluctant to come forward and supply vital information or crucial evidence on corruption. If the whistleblower and witness protection laws are not yet in place, it will remain a challenge to have cases of corruption reported unanimously and for whistleblowers to come forward.

Individuals were reluctant to provide information on corruption due to the lack of whistle-blower protection laws.

6 THE PROPOSED WAY FORWARD FOR NACS # 2

To improve the implementation of the NACS in Zimbabwe, several key recommendations can be made. These focus on strengthening institutions, ensuring transparency, increasing public participation, and creating a more comprehensive approach to fighting corruption. Below are some of the approaches that can be incorporated in developing the successor to the first NACS drawing lessons from its predecessor:

i. Financial support to NACS

A request should be made to the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development (MoFED) to avail more funding to support NACS pillars and related activities.

ii. Enhance Institutional Capacity

ZACC and other anticorruption bodies should receive adequate funding, skilled/technical personnel, and technological resources to effectively investigate and prosecute corruption cases. Strengthen the technical capabilities of ZACC, the judiciary,

and law enforcement agencies through specialized anticorruption training and skills development in areas such as forensic accounting, financial investigations, and digital monitoring.

iii. Increased collaboration between the NACS Pillars

All the subcommittees to jointly implement activities, for better appreciation of the NACS amongst the citizens. Furthermore, the NACS 2 need to be core-hosted between ZACC and other Anticorruption institutions. This can increase the effectiveness in terms of political will in the

implementation of NACS and to allow continuation of meetings if one of the hosts is not available.

iv. Ensure Independence of Anticorruption Bodies

ZACC and other anticorruption bodies must be fully independent and free from political interference. This will help ensure impartiality and credibility when investigating cases, especially those involving high-ranking officials. The judiciary should also be protected from political pressure to ensure that corruption cases are handled fairly and without bias.

v. Speed Up Prosecutions and Enhance Accountability

Focus on the timely prosecution of high-profile corruption cases to show that no one is above the law. This could involve dedicating special resources and teams to ensure that such cases move quickly through the legal system. Implement mechanisms for public monitoring of high-profile cases to increase transparency and accountability in the judicial process.

vi. Strengthen the Legal and Regulatory Framework for Anticorruption

Provide comprehensive legal protections for whistleblowers to encourage the reporting of corruption without fear of retaliation. This includes financial incentives, anonymity, and protection from harassment. Strengthen laws and procedures related to the recovery of assets obtained through corrupt means, both within Zimbabwe and abroad. International cooperation with institutions such as Interpol should be enhanced to trace and recover stolen assets.

vii. Increase Public Engagement and Education

Expand public education campaigns on the importance of anticorruption efforts and the role of citizens in reporting corruption. There is a need to increase the utilisation of social media platforms to reach a wider audience, especially the youth.

viii. Strengthen collaboration with Civil Society and the Media

NACS 2 to strengthen the working relations with CSOs and the media. This relationship should enable CSOs and the Media to act as watchdogs, monitor the implementation of NACS, and hold the government accountable. CSOs can also provide training and raise awareness of anticorruption practices. The successor strategy should have funding to support Investigative Journalism guaranteeing the protection and support for investigative journalists who expose corruption.

ix. Strengthen International Cooperation

Pursue international asset recovery efforts and collaborate more effectively with international organisations and foreign governments to trace and recover illicit financial flows (IFFs) and stolen assets. NACS 2 to have provisions that seek to enhance engagement with global and regional anticorruption networks to share best practices, enhance capacity-building efforts, and tackle cross-border corruption issues.

x. Setting up Monitoring and Evaluation Systems

NACS 2 need to put in place clear performance indicators and regularly publish progress reports. These should be made available to the public to ensure

transparency and accountability in the implementation of the strategy. This should also include regular independent audits to assess the effectiveness of NACS and use the findings to make informed adjustments to the strategy as needed.

xi. Foster Political Will and Leadership Commitment

The successor strategy should ensure that political players are part of all the subcommittees/pillars. Zero Tolerance from the Top The government leadership must demonstrate zero tolerance for corruption at all levels. Political parties should commit to upholding anticorruption principles and refrain from shielding corrupt individuals within their ranks. Promoting ethical governance should be part of every political manifesto.

The successor strategy should have funding to support Investigative Journalism guaranteeing the protection and support for investigative journalists who expose corruption.

7 CONCLUSION

While corruption remains a significant challenge in Zimbabwe, the NACS has had some successes, particularly in strengthening anticorruption institutions, engaging the public, and recovering assets. These successes, though incremental, represent steps in the right direction, and with sustained efforts, the strategy has the potential to achieve more substantial results in the future. Improving the implementation of Zimbabwe's NACS requires a multi-pronged approach that addresses both structural weaknesses and cultural challenges. Additional laws protecting whistleblowers and witnesses; strong political will; independent institutions, increased public engagement, and leveraging technology are critical to achieving lasting success in the fight against corruption. If adopted, these recommendations in the development and implementation of the successor to NACS they could significantly enhance the effectiveness of the anticorruption strategy and contribute to greater transparency and accountability in Zimbabwe.

ABOUT TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL ZIMBABWE (TI Z)

Transparency International Zimbabwe (TI Z) is a non-profit, non-partisan, systems-oriented local chapter of the international movement against corruption. Its broad mandate is to fight corruption and related vices through networks of integrity in line with the Global Strategy. TI Z believes corruption can only be sufficiently tackled by all citizens including people at grass root level.

VISION

A Zimbabwean society free from all forms of corruption and practices.

MISSION

To combat corruption, hold power to account and promote transparency, accountability, and integrity in all sectors of society.

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