



**TRANSPARENCY  
INTERNATIONAL  
ZIMBABWE**

the coalition against corruption



**A COMPENDIUM OF ANTI-CORRUPTION  
SECTOR INSTITUTIONS IN ZIMBABWE**

# Introduction

Corruption remains a pervasive issue in Zimbabwe, undermining economic growth, public trust, and institutional integrity. To combat this challenge, the government has established a network of anti-corruption institutions with distinct yet complementary roles. The anti-corruption institutions are grounded in international conventions and national legislation and are tasked with investigating, prosecuting, and preventing corruption across both the public and private sectors. This compendium provides a comprehensive overview of Zimbabwe's key anti-corruption institutions, their governing legislation, and how they work in unison to uphold transparency and accountability. By clarifying the roles of these institutions this document aims to demystify the process of anti-corruption enforcement, addressing common misconceptions and enhancing public understanding of the national anti-corruption framework.

## The Policy and Regulatory Framework for Anti-corruption

### International and Regional Conventions and Protocols

Zimbabwe is a signatory to several international and regional conventions aimed at combatting corruption:



UNITED NATIONS

#### The United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC):

Signed on February 20, 2004, and ratified by Zimbabwe on March 8, 2007, this convention sets out global standards for fighting corruption.



#### The African Union (AU) Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption:

Zimbabwe signed this on November 18, 2003, and ratified it on February 28, 2007.

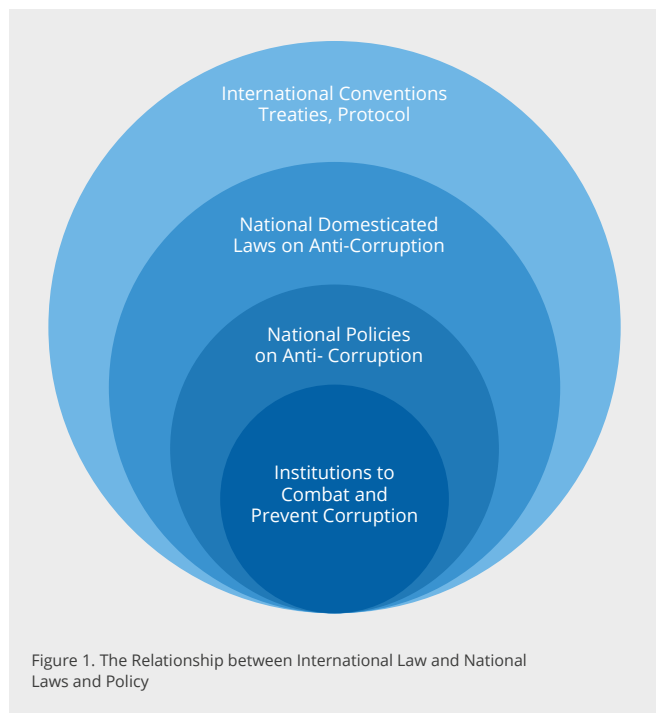


#### The Southern African Development Community (SADC) Protocol Against Corruption:

Signed on August 14, 2001, this protocol emphasizes regional collaboration in fighting corruption.

These treaties guide the national anti-corruption framework in Zimbabwe.

The relationship between international, regional and national laws and policies on anti-corruption is shown in Figure 1. below



## Constitution of Zimbabwe Amendment (No. 20), 2013

The Constitution of Zimbabwe promotes transparency and accountability. Chapter 13 of the Constitution establishes key institutions to combat corruption. These include the Zimbabwe Anti-Corruption Commission (ZACC) in Section 254) and the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) in Section 258. These institutions, alongside others like the Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP) and Zimbabwe Revenue Authority (ZIMRA), collaborate to combat corruption, with ZACC handling investigations and the NPA overseeing prosecutions.

## National Anti-Corruption Strategy (NACS)

Launched on July 11, 2020, Zimbabwe's NACS outlined a coordinated approach to tackling corruption across sectors between the years 2020 and 2024. It encourages citizen involvement, strengthens enforcement systems, and aims to recover stolen assets. It also calls for protection for whistle-blowers. The strategy emphasises the involvement of government bodies, law enforcement, the judiciary, civil society, and the public. Its key objectives include:



**Increasing citizens' awareness about corruption**, and their rights and responsibilities relevant to the fight against corruption



**Improve compliance** with anti-corruption and integrity management obligations and mechanisms across sectors



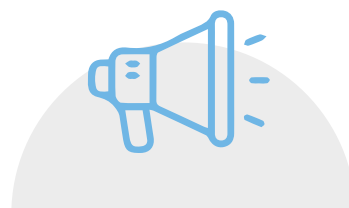
**Increase public demand for transparency**, accountability and rejection of corruption in the public sector



**Protecting** whistleblowers



**Recovering assets** obtained through corruption



**Promoting transparency** within political parties and government institutions.

## National Anti-Corruption Strategy

National blueprint launched by His Excellency the President (2020-2024)

## NACS Steering Committee

Ministries Agencies & Departments  
Private Sector  
Civic Society  
Academia  
Media

## NACS Sub-Committees

Citizen Awareness  
Detection & deterrence  
Accountability in institutions  
Whistleblower and witness protection  
Asset Recovery  
Transparency in political parties & political will

Figure 2: The NACS and its Coordination Structures

## Zimbabwe Anti-Corruption Commission (ZACC)

Legislation: Established under Section 254 of the Constitution and governed by the Anti-Corruption Commission Act [Chapter 9:22].

ZACC is an independent body tasked with investigating and preventing corruption in both the public and private sectors. It raises awareness about corruption and promotes integrity. ZACC encourages citizens to report corruption and protects whistle-blowers. It works with international agencies and recommends cases for prosecution.

Functions:



Investigate corruption in both public and private sectors



Arrest individuals involved in corruption (similar to police powers)



Promote honesty, integrity, and financial transparency



Educate the public on corruption risks



Refer cases to the NPA for prosecution

ZACC does not prosecute. It has the power to investigate and arrest but must refer its cases to the NPA, which decides whether to prosecute or not.

## National Prosecuting Authority (NPA)

Legislation: Established under Section 258 of the Constitution, governed by the National Prosecuting Authority Act.

The NPA is responsible for prosecuting crimes on behalf of the State, including corruption cases. The Prosecutor-General leads the NPA and works to ensure impartial prosecutions.

Functions:



Prosecute criminal cases, including those related to corruption



Direct the Commissioner-General of Police to investigate suspected offences



Ensure that prosecutions are conducted impartially, without bias or influence

ZACC hands over cases to the NPA after investigations. The NPA has the sole authority to prosecute corruption cases in court.



# The Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP)

Legislation: Established under Section 219 of the Constitution and governed by the Police Act [Chapter 11:10].

The ZRP's anti-corruption unit investigates corruption crimes and works with ZACC and the NPA. The police are responsible for maintaining law and order and investigating crimes, including corruption cases.

Functions:



Detect, investigate, and prevent crime, including corruption



Assist ZACC in corruption investigations upon request



Maintain law and order, and protect public safety

ZACC may request the ZRP to assist in investigating complex cases. ZRP has also established an anti-corruption unit, the Police Anticorruption Unit (PACU) to focus on corruption-related crimes.

# Zimbabwe Revenue Authority (ZIMRA)

Legislation: Governed by the Revenue Authority Act [Chapter 23:11].

ZIMRA is responsible for collecting taxes and duties, fighting smuggling, and ensuring goods entering the country meet safety standards. ZIMRA has launched initiatives to fight corruption within its ranks, such as running awareness campaigns and conducting lifestyle audits of its employees.

Functions:



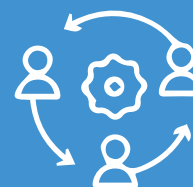
Collect taxes, customs duties, and other state revenues



Investigate and address tax-related corruption



Implement internal anti-corruption measures, such as lifestyle audits and integrity campaigns



Work closely with ZACC and other institutions to combat tax evasion and smuggling

ZIMRA may refer cases of suspected corruption to ZACC for further investigation, particularly where tax evasion or smuggling is involved.

# The Judicial Service Commission (JSC)

Legislation: Established under Section 189 of the Constitution.

The JSC is responsible for the administration and appointment of judges in Zimbabwe, ensuring the independence of the courts. The JSC promotes an independent and transparent judiciary. It has set up special anti-corruption courts to handle corruption cases. The JSC also provides training for judicial officers to better tackle corruption.

The JSC ensures that corruption cases referred by ZACC and prosecuted by the NPA are handled by well-equipped and impartial courts. The NPA is tasked with prosecuting criminal cases, including corruption, but operates independently from the judiciary to maintain fairness and impartiality in legal processes.

Functions:



Promote the independence and accountability of the judiciary



Oversee the administration of anti-corruption courts, which specialize in corruption-related cases



Train judicial officers in handling corruption cases

# The Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU)

Legislation: Established under the Money Laundering and Proceeds of Crime Act [Chapter 9:24].

The FIU investigates suspicious financial transactions, working to prevent money laundering and financial crimes. It shares reports with law enforcement agencies and promotes anti-money laundering practices in line with international standards.

Functions:



Monitor and analyse suspicious financial transactions



Share intelligence reports with law enforcement agencies like ZACC for further investigation



Ensure compliance with anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism financing laws

The FIU provides ZACC with financial data and intelligence related to corruption, money laundering, and other financial crimes.

# The Asset Management Unit (AMU)

Legislation: Established under the Money Laundering and Proceeds of Crime Act [Chapter 9:24].

The AMU manages and safeguards property and assets seized from criminals. It ensures that assets are preserved or disposed of properly if they are linked to corruption.

Functions:

Manage assets suspected to be proceeds of crime

Preserve and maintain the value of these assets

Dispose of assets when final forfeiture orders are granted by the courts

ZACC and the NPA refer cases to the AMU when assets need to be managed or disposed of, especially in cases of asset forfeiture.

# Asset Forfeiture Unit (AFU)

Legislation: Established under section 27A (4) of the National Prosecuting Authority Act

Operating as a unit of the NPA, the AFU works hand in hand with other local supervisory, regulatory or investigative authorities and even cooperates with foreign agencies, investigative authorities and regional or international organisations to trace, identify, recover, seize or confiscate proceeds of crime.

## Local and International Inter-Agency Coordination

Zimbabwe's anti-corruption institutions work together in the following ways:

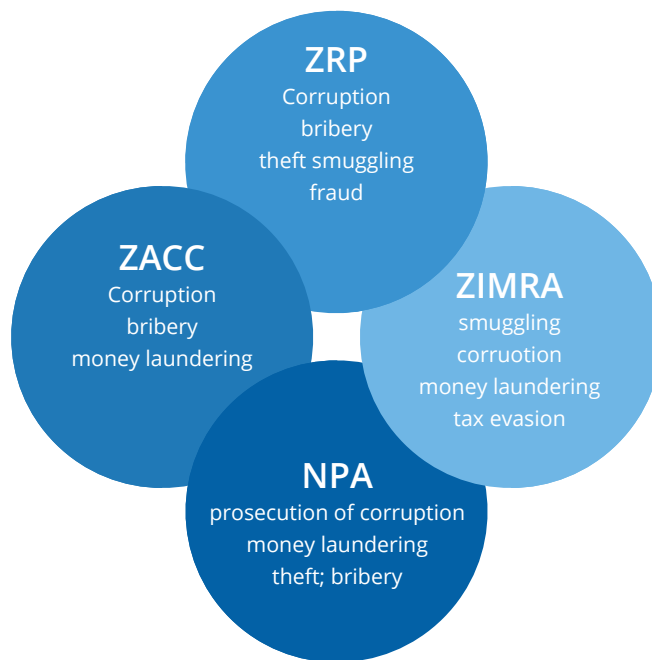


Figure 2. Interagency relationship among Anti-Corruption Sector Institutions (ACSIs)

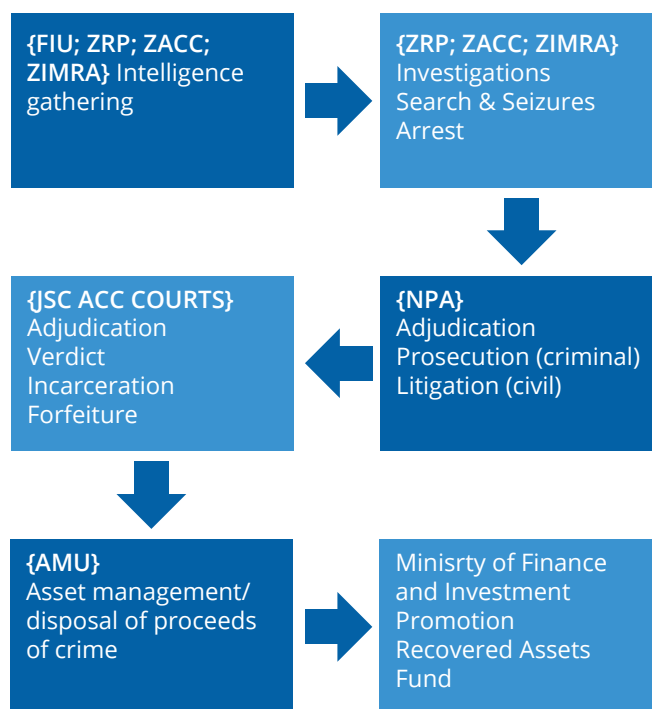


Figure 3. The Value Chain and Processes for ACSIs

Each institution has distinct yet complementary roles, ensuring an integrated approach to combating corruption. ZACC investigates, ZACC or ZRP arrests, NPA prosecutes, and other bodies provide essential support in addressing financial and legal aspects of corruption. The relationship between Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs) at times has intertwined and complimentary relationships when investigating corruption cases as shown in Figure 2 below.

# Conclusion

Zimbabwe's fight against corruption hinges on the effective collaboration of multiple institutions, each with a defined role in the broader anti-corruption framework. ZACC serves as the cornerstone for investigations and arrests, while the NPA prosecutes cases in court. Supporting institutions such as ZIMRA, FIU, and the judiciary play vital roles in ensuring that financial crimes are detected, assets are managed, and justice is served. By working together, these bodies form a cohesive and robust system to tackle corruption, which remains one of the most pressing threats to national development. Strengthening coordination and public understanding of their respective roles is critical to building a corruption-free Zimbabwe, fostering transparency, accountability, and public trust in the rule of law.





## Get in Touch





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