

Countering corruption in South Africa

Transparency, Integrity and Accountability Programme (TIP) in South Africa

The challenge: large-scale corruption and state capture

Corruption has become endemic in South Africa: It exists in all spheres of society and has permeated both the private and public sector – nationally, regionally and locally. It undermines democracy and public trust in government. Corruption has a negative impact on state services and thus on community and social development. It also damages economic development and job creation efforts, as well as investor confidence in the country.

According to corruption complaints reports of the local chapter of Transparency International, Corruption Watch, police services, the school system and the mining industry seem to be hotspots of corruption. Bribery and irregular public procurement are the most frequently reported forms of corruption.

The susceptibility of the public sector to corruption can also be traced back to causes such as conflation of state and party, patronage and collusion with the private sector. South Africa's private sector is well regulated by laws, voluntary standards and industry codes of conduct, but these have not been able to prevent large-scale corruption.

Citizens' confidence in the state's ability to fight corruption has eroded over a long period of time. While President Cyril Ramaphosa still enjoys a reputation for integrity and incorruptibility, confidence in his government's ability to bring about change is fragile.

Our approach: support to the whole-of-society movement to prevent corruption

The Transparency, Integrity and Accountability Programme in South Africa (TIP) is a partnership programme agreed to between the governments of Germany and South Africa. It supports state and non-state actors to contribute to the implementation of the



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National Anti-Corruption Strategy (NACS) by taking a whole-of-government and societal approach.

The project supports state anti-corruption bodies and bolsters integrity management in companies. It promotes multi-stakeholder partnerships between the public sector, private sector and civil society in the fight against corruption. It deploys a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach to support the implementation of the NACS in three areas:

- The first area promotes the active involvement of citizens, who contribute to the implementation of the NACS through initiatives that encourage transparency, integrity and accountability.
- The second area aims to strengthen institutional resilience so that the relevant state actors are empowered to steer and coordinate the implementation of the NACS in a whole-of-government manner.
- The third area targets multi-stakeholder partnerships (MSPs) between the public sector, private sector and civil society to build up transparency, integrity and accountability. In doing so, special consideration is given to human rights, including gender equality.



The National Anti-Corruption Strategy of South Africa was published in 2020 by the South African Government. It says that "we must roll up our sleeves, act now and end the corruption that threatens the legacy that we will pass on to future generations. Working together, we can and will succeed."

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The benefits

In November 2020, the South African Government adopted a National Anti-Corruption Strategy (NACS). This Strategy was developed through an inclusive, multi-sectoral process. It promotes a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach involving public, private and civil society actors. The NACS is based on the key values of integrity, transparency and accountability. A provisional National Anti-Corruption Advisory Council (NACAC) will be responsible for the preparation of the future National Anti-Corruption Agency (NACA) and thus put an end to the fragmentation of anti-corruption efforts and institutions. In Phase 2 of the NACS strategy, this central agency will drive the strategy forward and coordinate all anti-corruption activities in the country to ensure nationwide standards, concerted action and a coherent fight against corruption.

Results in figures...

To promote active citizenry the programme will support advocacy work, citizenship education, promotion of rights and accountability as well as protection mechanisms for individuals reporting corruption. It will therefore support the development of new methods, tools and trainings and activate communities through the media, story telling, theatre and social audits for participation in accountability processes.

Highlight: *The Programme Steering Committee is co-chaired by the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (DPME) in the Presidency and the national chapter of Transparency International, Corruption Watch, and thus reflects the close collaboration between state and non-governmental actors.*

To strengthen institutional capacities the programme will advise the NACAC and the (future) NACA on strategic leadership, inter-institutional coordination and division of mandates/labour, communication and public relations, monitoring and evaluation. In line with this, peer-to-peer learning with other anti-corruption agencies shall support the ongoing strategy implementation process. For the NACS implementation the programme will also provide capacity development for sector-specific, disaggregated data collection and analysis, including partnerships with academia.

To promote the whole-of-government and societal approach the programme will establish and support MSPs on key areas such as business integrity, open public procurement and whistleblowing through networking, training and accompaniment in communication. This will include analysis of stakeholders and their networks and relationships for the formation of MSPs and action plans for the implementation of NACS. The elaboration and public discussion of NACS sector-specific action plans will include all relevant stakeholders considering gender aspects and the principles of Leave No One Behind (LNOB).

...and in stories

In line with the recommendations of the NACS, the GIZ's TIP is providing technical assistance to the DPME for the development of a web-based central data base that will provide on-demand access to information about all reported corruption cases across the state institutions and state agencies.

This data base will provide the anchor for coordinating the different institutions that oversee and implement anti-corruption measures and prevent corruption by providing simultaneous access for multiple actors to high quality information. This system will be underpinned with clearly defined roles and responsibilities for all the role players, standard operating procedures (SOP's) and explicit business processes across the full value chain of anti-corruption (prevention, detection, investigation, prosecution).

The recent release of the various reports of the Judicial Commission of Inquiry into Allegations of State Capture (Zondo Commission) as well as the other recently concluded judicial commissions of enquiry and the President's proclamations to the Special Investigation Unit (SIU) to further investigate high profile cases of corruption proved to be a catalyst for this initiative. Additionally, the TIP provides technical support to the DPME for the development of a monitoring, coordinating and reporting system on the implementation of the NACS through the placement of an M&E national integrated expert.

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