

# FROM CRISIS TO ACTION



**ANNUAL REPORT  
2020**

**corruption  
watch** 

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# FROM CRISIS TO ACTION

Message from board chairperson, Mavuso Msimang

**“ANOTHER WORLD IS NOT ONLY POSSIBLE, SHE IS ON HER WAY. ON A QUIET DAY, I CAN HEAR HER BREATHING.” – ARUNDHATI ROY**

The past year, 2020, will go down in history as one of monumental shifts and changes in how we live our lives. It was a time when the world collapsed in on itself, as countries turned inwards in panic: imposed lockdowns, isolated their populations, banned travel and public gatherings, restricted movement of citizens, and economies ground to a halt.

Healthcare systems in even the most well-resourced and robust societies of the world threatened to come apart at the seams, and images of overwhelmed and traumatised healthcare workers were streamed to audiences daily, from every corner of the globe, as death tolls soared, and people across cultures, nationalities, age groups and vulnerabilities succumbed.

The cause of this upheaval? A tiny, microscopic, unpredictable, airborne virus which has, over a period of 12 months, brought the entire world virtually to its knees and stopped us all in our tracks. SARS-CoV-2, the new coronavirus behind the disease Covid-19, has, to date infected over 113 million people around the world, and killed over 2.5 million.

South Africa had recorded 1 512 225 million cases of Covid-19, and 49 941 deaths<sup>1</sup>, as at 28 February 2021.

Words like unprecedented, exhausting, relentless, chaotic and deadly have filled our consciousness, and perhaps none have taken root more strongly than the word pandemic itself, the definition of which is an occurrence of a disease that affects many people across a whole country or the whole world<sup>2</sup>.

Originating from the Greek words “pan” meaning all, and “demos” meaning the people or population, a pandemic therefore affects (nearly) all of the people.

Which brings us to the other pandemic, of which we have heard and seen far too much during a year deluged by unimaginable acts of greed, self-enrichment, and sheer lack of humanity. This is the pandemic of corruption.





I would like to quote two world leaders who have dominated our screens and airwaves over this past year on this vexing subject.

The first, World Health Organisation director-general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, has been famously quoted at a media briefing in Geneva in late August 2020:



**“ANY TYPE OF CORRUPTION IS UNACCEPTABLE, HOWEVER, CORRUPTION RELATED TO PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE), FOR ME IT’S ACTUALLY MURDER. IF HEALTH WORKERS WORK WITHOUT PPE, WE’RE RISKING THEIR LIVES AND THE LIVES OF THE PEOPLE THEY SERVE. IT IS MURDER AND IT HAS TO STOP<sup>3</sup>”**

**– TEDROS ADHANOM GHEBREYESUS**

This was in response to a question about alleged Covid-19 PPE corruption in South Africa involving tender fraud worth billions. These corruption scandals catapulted the country into the global spotlight, for all the wrong reasons. Barely a month later, UN Secretary General António Guterres echoed those words from Tedros in a **YouTube video** in October 2020, addressing the topic of corruption in the context of Covid-19:

“Corruption is criminal, immoral and the ultimate betrayal of public trust. It is even more damaging in times of crisis – as the world is experiencing now with the Covid-19 pandemic.”

These admonishments could have been tailor-made for us here in South Africa, if one reviews the unspeakable levels of corruption that have mushroomed at a time of our highest vulnerability.

In my message last year, I expressed cautious optimism about some of the changes that had taken place during the previous year: new leadership in the country’s governing party, the African National Congress (ANC), and its return to power in the May 2019 general elections, although with a significantly reduced majority. Its mandate was, finally, to tackle head-on the corruption that had plagued the party and the country for so long.

The dangers were still there, and the reality of uneasy bedfellows in a party riven by internal squabbles and differences in values, filtered outwards. But there were signs that treatment would and could be doled out to halt the spread of corruption, if not eliminate it entirely.

Following the years of state capture and the brazen collusion between self-serving business and government players, it seemed as though the country was ready for the new broom that would sweep away the toxic culture of corruption. Measures seemed to be in place for those found to be manifestly corrupt, lacking in integrity or honesty, and unfit to hold office, to finally face the consequences of their actions and be answerable to the people, as previously hollowed out criminal justice institutions began to rally once again. The public were on the brink of a giant exhalation, with the promise that heads would roll.

### ENTER COVID-19

It ripped away the curtain, exposing the stark reality of South African society – gross inequality that determines who has access to quality healthcare, food, education, employment, benefits, safety and security, never mind in an emergency situation.

The declaration of a state of disaster, and the accompanying hard lockdown that formed part of the country’s first response to the devastating virus, even as it was intended to protect and isolate the population from a common enemy, also dealt a devastating blow to people’s ability to keep body and soul together.

The disaster regulations necessitated a range of economic stimulus packages designed to provide a safety net to the most vulnerable, and to put in place emergency procurement measures to ensure that healthcare and essential workers, as well as their patients, would have what they need in a medical emergency.

It was inconceivable that anyone with an ounce of humanity would see these desperate measures as an opportunity for looting. And yet they did. Reports began to emerge of inflated prices and underhand deals between government officials and the private sector to provide medical equipment, or price gouging in the supply of life-saving PPEs. Shockingly, food aid parcels intended for the poor were also sold or diverted. While our country, our economy and people’s lives were being ravaged by a serious pandemic, these things were happening against a backdrop of power abuse by law enforcement officials who applied brute force to ordinary people trying to navigate an uncertain and altered world.

All across the nation people are wondering how we got to this point, how our society became so morally bankrupt and corrupt, so cruel and avaricious, as to seize upon the moment – this kind of moment! – to profit, steal food out of the mouths of our own people, and risk the lives of those in the frontline. The answer is corruption.

This may sound like a hopeless litany of woes, a tunnel from which we are unable to emerge. But that is not the case. We need only scan the pages of this report to see the extent to which civil society rallied during 2020. We see the many spaces where campaigners for social justice intervened – in matters of food security; abuse of power by police and law enforcement organs; access to health services; defence of basic human rights in extreme times; and better and tighter procurement policies. Members of the public also continued to expose corruption and injustice, while often at the receiving end of those very acts. Actually, these decisions to act in the face of an emergency inspired the theme of this report: From crisis to action.

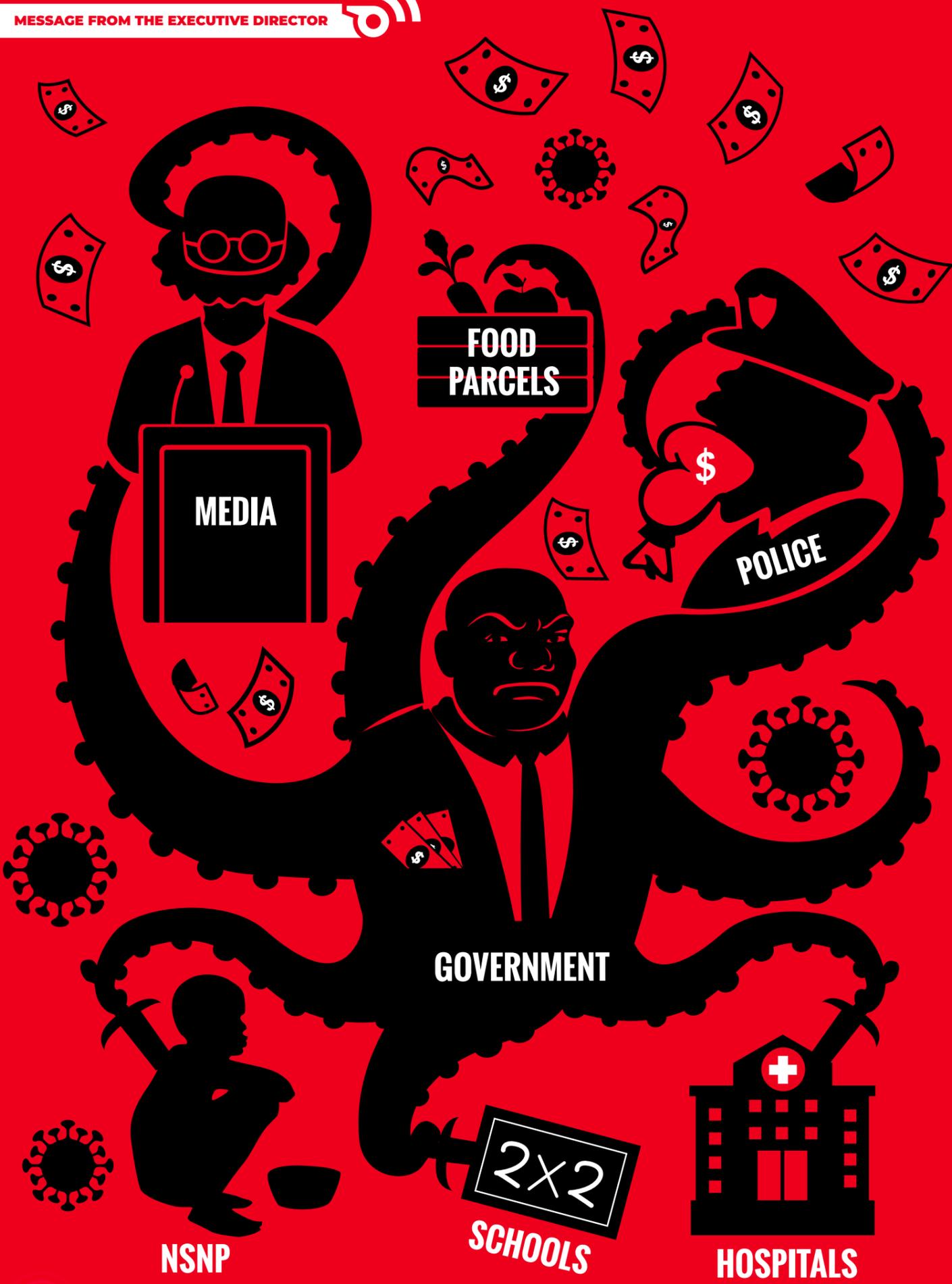
This is precisely what we need more of now, a sustained and unrelenting activism, and a determination not to let up. We need, collectively, to dig deep into the depths of our humanity, to rediscover that energy and zeal that once successfully vanquished the unjust, the immoral, the inhumane and the criminal. If ever there was a time for a reckoning, it is now. We must rank these acts of treason – for that is what they are – alongside other atrocities that have long been outlawed on our statute books, and have no place in our democracy.

We can learn from the lessons and the victories of past revolutions, not just our own, but those from around the world, to usher in a new order. But this revolution must be of our own making, defined and refined by our new circumstances and a world badly in need of a shake-up. We can no longer tolerate what is happening before our eyes, in our own country.

We cannot watch while people facing serious allegations of corruption, not only in relation to cases of Covid-19, but also in matters emerging at the Zondo Commission, refuse to fall on their swords. We have seen a treasonous breach of the Constitution, the very underpinning of our democracy. We have witnessed an astounding defiance of the Constitutional Court, the final arbiter on matters legal in the land, and of structures set up to defend its principles. Can we shift the national conscience and take on those in positions of power who treat us with disdain, and yet continue to hold public office, even representing us and our interests in Parliament? I think we must. We have done it before and, confronted by a not-dissimilar flagrant disregard and disrespect for the interests of the people, we must do it now.

What this past year has shown us is how appallingly the people of this country have been treated, disregarded and disrespected. If Covid-19 caught us unprepared, what initial failures there may have been may, perhaps, be forgiven. With the previous comparable pandemic, the Spanish influenza, having occurred more than a century ago, we lacked requisite experience.

But what will be insufferable is that the planned vaccination programme that we are told will protect and help us to build herd immunity, should be exposed to any semblance of theft. Society has to be vigilant and, wherever possible, prevent this from happening and act ruthlessly should there be any instance of corruption.



# MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

David Lewis

**2020! WHAT A YEAR THAT WAS, ONE THAT ONLY THOSE LOOKING FOR OPPORTUNITIES FOR CORRUPTION WOULD WANT TO SEE REPEATED.**

In 2020 South Africa found itself in the eye of a perfect storm, represented by simultaneous crises each of gargantuan dimensions. An economic crisis which underpins growing unemployment, inequality and poverty. A social crisis reflected in earth-shattering levels of violence against women and children, stubbornly high levels of general crime and a widespread decline in the quality of public goods, notably health and education. A governance crisis, evidenced by a marked deterioration in the quality of the control and management of public and private sector institutions – including political parties – and which is reflected in extremely high levels of corruption, mismanagement and maladministration.

On top of these woes, South Africa, like the rest of the world, is grappling with a huge public health crisis in the shape of the Covid-19 pandemic.

We have seen how each of these crises has been massively exacerbated by the pandemic, marking out 2020 as the year of Covid. But it's striking that as much, if not more, of the public conversation surrounding the pandemic centred not on its public health dimensions, but rather on the rampant corruption that characterised the procurement and distribution of goods and services, including the constrained relief packages, necessitated by Covid-19.



It is as if South Africans, in the outraged response to Covid-related corruption, were saying: **"We have been disciplined in our efforts to safeguard ourselves, our neighbours, our communities and our country. In so doing, we have sacrificed to an unimaginable degree. And the thanks that we get is to see our public officials and our elected representatives and their private sector counterparts making off with money meant to buy protection for health care workers and food hampers intended to stave off starvation for a few weeks."**

This established yet again that corruption is front of mind for so many South Africans who view it as an underlying cause of so many of their problems, as the reason why their public services are so degraded and why they simply cannot trust the elites who run both the public and private sectors.

While we in Corruption Watch share the outrage of the public, we do not share their surprise. Think of VBS and its looting of the savings of the poor and the funds of resource-strapped municipalities; think of the Estina Dairy scandal and the manner in which it destroyed the hopes of emergent farmers; think of the number of families denied housing because they could not or would not bribe the housing official for a place in the queue; think of the sick who have been forced to pay for a hospital bed in our 'free' public health service.

Think of all this and much else besides, and you too will not be surprised that

**THE CORRUPT WILL HAPPILY  
COMPROMISE THE SAFETY OF OUR  
HEALTH CARE WORKERS AND STEAL  
FOOD FROM HUNGRY HOUSEHOLDS.  
THE TRUTH IS THAT THERE ARE FEW  
CRIMES AS CRUEL AS CORRUPTION  
AND YES, SOMETIMES IT DOES KILL.**

Keeping this in mind, we have set up a dedicated project in an effort to ensure that the procurement of Covid-19 vaccines is not as easily corrupted as the procurement of protective equipment.

Like so many others we have worked remotely since early in 2020. As many of our staff members use public transport to and from work, working from home has saved us from the worst ravages of the disease – I'm pleased to say that only one member of staff has contracted the virus and he picked that up in hospital!

Our productivity has remained surprisingly high. We have continued receiving and processing reports of corruption (in fact last year we received the second largest volume of reports since we opened our doors in 2012) and our major campaigns, largely run by our stakeholder and legal and investigation units, have continued without material interruption.

Our sleep-deprived communications unit has maintained, even strengthened, our presence in the media, both on our own media channels and in the mainstream commercial and community media, while our administration team has guarded our resources with their usual zeal and ensured our compliance with the relevant laws and regulations.

There is of course one extremely important activity that has been drastically curtailed, namely our face-to-face community engagement. This is a particularly important component of our work with impoverished mining communities and it has also undoubtedly affected the public launch of our innovative Veza tool, which is the core element in our campaign against police corruption. Fortunately both the mining and police campaigns have large research dimensions which have kept the campaign teams more than busy. Our communications team has managed to mitigate the difficulties in engaging directly with the communities by devoting greater resources to community media.

## THE LAUNCH OF OUR INNOVATIVE VEZA TOOL, WHICH IS THE CORE ELEMENT IN OUR CAMPAIGN AGAINST POLICE CORRUPTION.



The communications team has also run a high-quality daily news service from the Zondo commission.

Our police campaign merits particular attention, not only because it tackles a particularly important and complex sector, but also because of its highly innovative use of technology in the fight against corruption. Go onto our website and open the Veza tool and you will agree that this is a world-class innovation whose easy accessibility, even to the most marginalised communities, belies the quality of the thinking and technology that has produced the tool.

During 2020 government also made some progress in the fight against corruption. The National Anti-Corruption Strategy, which was produced by a joint civil society/government task team, has been completed, approved by Cabinet, and will be launched in 2021. The president has signed into force the Act regulating party political funding. Some high-profile arrests have been effected by law enforcement authorities. The National Anti-Corruption Health Forum has been firmly established under the leadership of the increasingly active Special Investigating Unit, and it is another role model for effective government/civil society co-operation.

None of this should disguise the fact that we, as South Africans, have mountains to climb. If anything, the range of near-intractable crises listed above deepened over the course of 2020, leaving us with the daunting prospect of a 2021 that will undoubtedly prove at least as difficult as its predecessor. But looking at 2020, we can take comfort from the prospect that while the coming year will present further challenges, it will also, if our experience is anything to go by, produce new solutions.

I want to thank our board for their wise guidance, our staff for their unswerving commitment, and our funders for standing by us in an environment where the demand for their limited means expands on a daily basis.

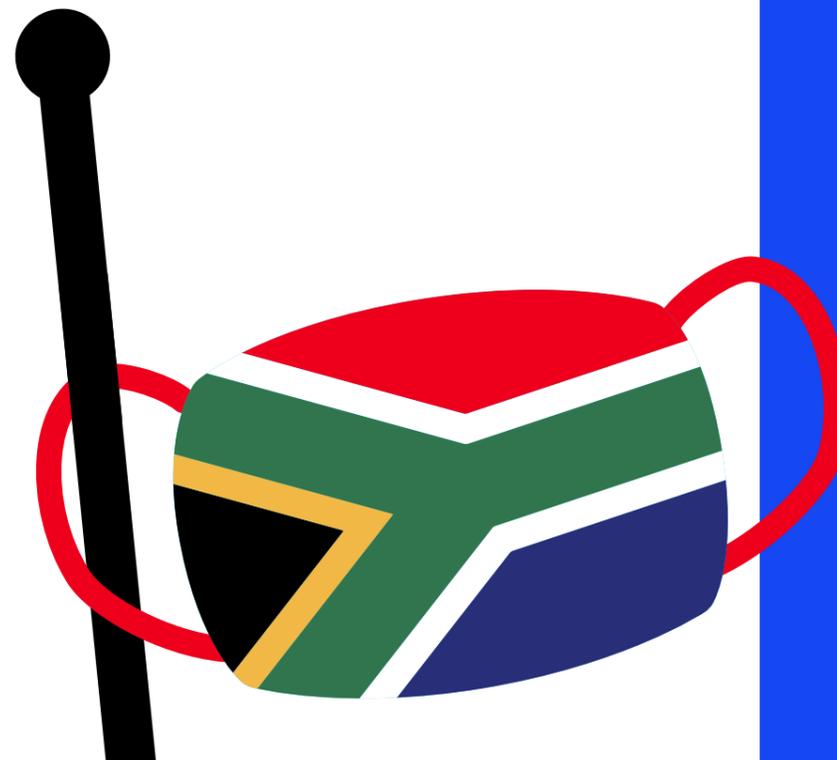


# INTRODUCTION

The last time you were on this page, you read of the enthusiasm with which we planned to continue pursuing the fight against corruption, the fight for a transparent government that encourages clean service delivery to its people. You read of the great litigation victories of the year before, and the daunting but fun campaign work we looked forward to in 2020. We also paid a fitting tribute to our long-standing currency, the whistle-blowers who trust us with corruption reports, of which you will read more in the pages ahead.

None of us, however, expected that 2020 would turn out to be an experiment to test our wills, our state of consciousness and activism, and even our faith. It brings to mind a funny quote found on social media that goes: "the dumbest thing I ever did was to buy a 2020 planner." All the plans as we knew them had to go out the window to make way for revised strategies and tactics. Almost a year after we closed our offices and set out to work remotely, we can safely say our theme for this year rings true: From Crisis to Action.

We had to adapt, and do so quickly enough so as to not lose our focus or momentum. Needless to say, we are still a while away from restoring as much of the old normal as we comfortably can, but we can confidently say that under the challenging circumstances of 2020, we scored some victories in the work we set out to do. The theme speaks to that emboldened courage that surpassed ongoing challenges, to bring us into a 2021 filled with even more confidence that we can make a difference.



**WE HAD SOME IDEA THAT  
SOUTH AFRICA'S HEALTH SECTOR  
WAS NOT CRISIS-READY, BUT WE  
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Looking back, two important lessons came out of 2020 from government's mitigation of the effects of Covid-19. We had some idea that South Africa's health sector was not crisis-ready, but we did not realise the great extent to which systemic weaknesses pulled it down. It came as little surprise, therefore, that when it had to make the tough choices between prioritising the bolstering of the sector in order to save lives, and protecting the economy, government chose the former.

The second, more worrying lesson, was that in spite of the unique situation we found ourselves in, the ugly truth of corruption by opportunistic politicians and those connected to them, was a reality. They only had to exploit already weak controls in procurement systems across all three spheres of government, and it did not help that Cabinet had resolved to relax some protocols because of the urgent circumstances. Our equally weakened law enforcement structures have also struggled to bring all to book who stole from the Covid-19 purse, but we keep the cases on our radar nevertheless.

Besides the health sector, our police too were not fully prepared for the challenges of enforcing a hard lockdown, for reasons varying from poor management and planning to lack of political will in equipping our police service with the right tools and infrastructure. Cases of brutality and abuse of power made disheartening headlines regularly.

Interestingly, it was in these two areas that we sought to make a particular difference as Corruption Watch, so the flaws in them manifested in a way that only served to amplify our message more profoundly: South Africa needs to clean up its health sector for the sake of the millions of lives that depend on it. Also, if confidence and credibility of the police is to be restored, it should be with tools in the hands of ordinary citizens to hold the police accountable.

For the latter problem, our response was the development and launch of Veza, the much-anticipated online tool that we first spoke of in last year's report (more details in our campaigns section). It puts the power of holding our police officials accountable in the hands of the communities that rely on their service. It has only been in operation for several weeks, but we have no doubt that its purpose will prove relevant for many communities out there, some of whom we have engaged on the topic of police brutality and abuse of power.

Equally, as a member of the health sector anti-corruption forum, we have intensified our efforts in cleaning up our healthcare procurement systems. Again, there is more on this part of our work later in the report, and it shows that our country needs to use the opportunities that 2020 provided to move beyond diagnosing corruption in the sector, to fixing the culture that enables it.

The late former auditor-general Kimi Makwetu was asked in an interview published by the *Mail & Guardian* newspaper about a month before his passing in November 2020, what advice he had for his successor, Tsakani Maluleke, who was soon to take over as South Africa's first female auditor-general. His answer spoke volumes about the legacy and ethos of the office: "[Terence] Nombembe told me to always ensure my eyes are focused on the independence of the office. This is key in everything we do. Also, the professional competence of the team must never be undermined."

It was in the spirit embodied by Makwetu's message – that of an independent office that thrives on its competence – that we approached Parliament to make input on the appointment of his successor. It was as much a sign of our confidence in Ms Maluleke's ability to carry on where her esteemed predecessor left off, as it was to support and uphold the high standards of the auditor-general's office in carrying out its work. We called for an open, transparent process that upholds the principle of independence that the auditor-general's office has displayed.

With all respect to the technology of online platforms such as Microsoft Teams, Zoom and others that enabled us to reach audiences in webinars and other platforms, the Corruption Watch team's spirit and vigour in keeping the anti-corruption fight going is the inspiration that we keep drawing on, going into the unknown that is 2021.

**WE LEARNED FROM THE CRISIS  
AND PUT LESSONS TO ACTION!**

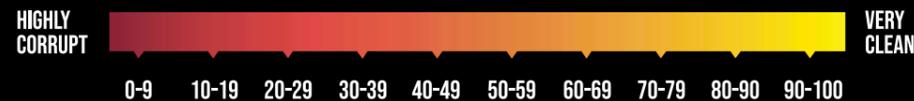


# 2020 IN REVIEW

# WHAT THE NUMBERS SAY

**SOUTH AFRICA'S RANK SUGGESTS A FAILURE OF GOVERNMENT EFFORTS TO MAKE REAL INROADS AGAINST THE ROOT CAUSES OF CORRUPTION.**

As expected, the **2020 Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI)** had a strong Covid-19 focus, and as expected, South Africa showed neither improvement nor decline, scoring just 44.




**SOUTH AFRICA SHOWED NEITHER IMPROVEMENT NOR DECLINE, SCORING JUST 44.**

The CPI, respected as a leading global indicator of public sector corruption, scores and ranks 180 countries and territories around the world based on perceptions of corruption. It draws on 13 expert assessments and surveys of businesspeople, and uses a scale of zero to 100, where zero is highly corrupt and 100 is very clean.

Released in January 2021, the CPI for the previous year highlighted the impact of corruption on the ability of countries around the world, including South Africa, to manage their health care responses to the Covid-19 pandemic.

It also highlighted South Africa's pattern of stagnation over the past eight years. In the previous CPI the country also scored 44. In 2018 and 2017 it scored 43.

Before that, South Africa managed:

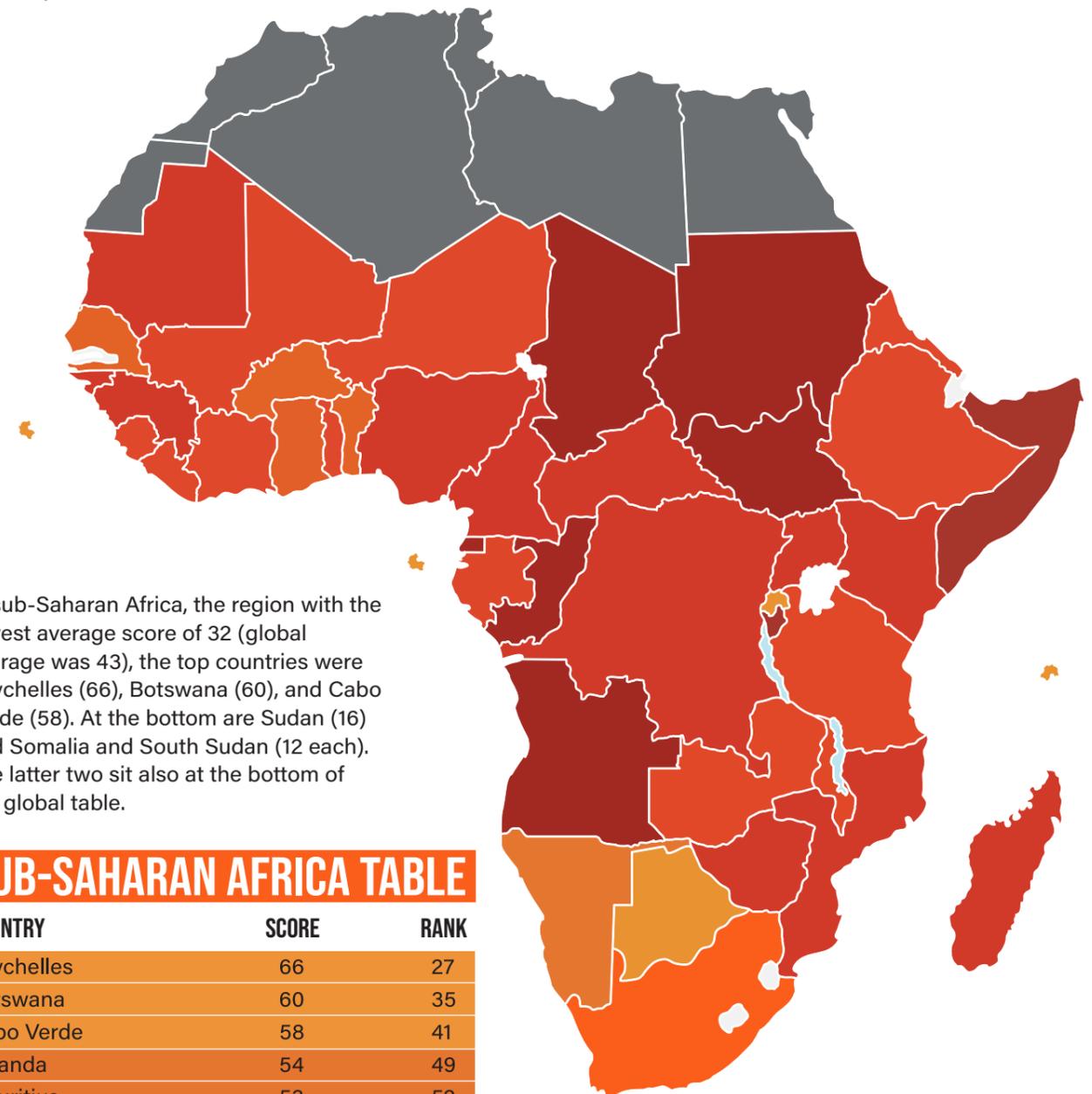
45	2016	44	2015
44	2014	42	2013
43	2012		

According to TI, a score below 50 indicates a significant corruption problem.

South Africa's rank of 69 puts it on a par with Bulgaria, Hungary, Jamaica, Romania and Tunisia. It falls into the group of countries surveyed which have been stuck in place for many years, and is one of the 66% of countries whose score remained below 50. This suggests a failure of government efforts to make real inroads against the root causes of corruption.

## SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

**32/100**  
AVERAGE REGIONAL SCORE



In sub-Saharan Africa, the region with the lowest average score of 32 (global average was 43), the top countries were Seychelles (66), Botswana (60), and Cabo Verde (58). At the bottom are Sudan (16) and Somalia and South Sudan (12 each). The latter two sit also at the bottom of the global table.

### SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA TABLE

COUNTRY	SCORE	RANK
Seychelles	66	27
Botswana	60	35
Cabo Verde	58	41
Rwanda	54	49
Mauritius	53	52
Namibia	51	57
Sao Tome and Principe	47	63
Senegal	45	67
South Africa	44	69
Ghana	43	75

# CORRUPTION WATCH 2020 DATA

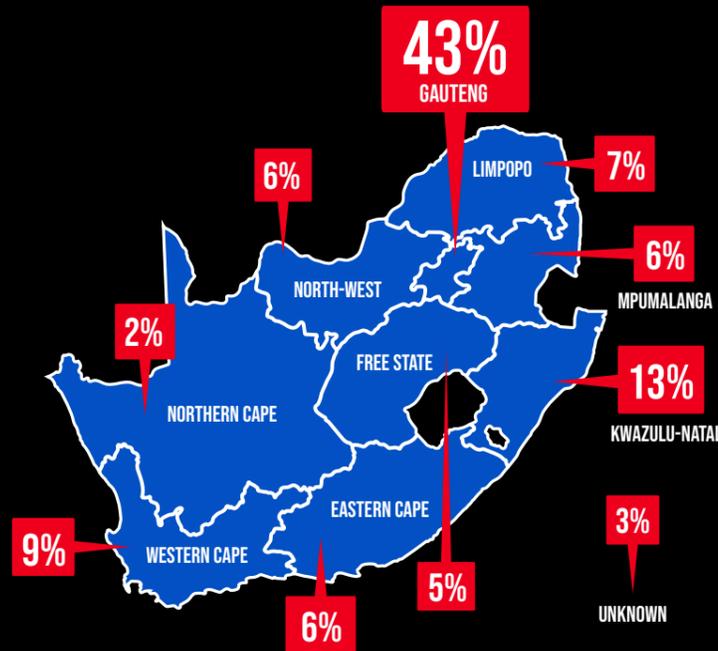
**IN 2020, CORRUPTION WATCH RECORDED THE SECOND HIGHEST TALLY OF REPORTS OF CORRUPTION RECEIVED IN A CALENDAR YEAR.**

**4 780  
REPORTS  
RECEIVED  
IN 2020**

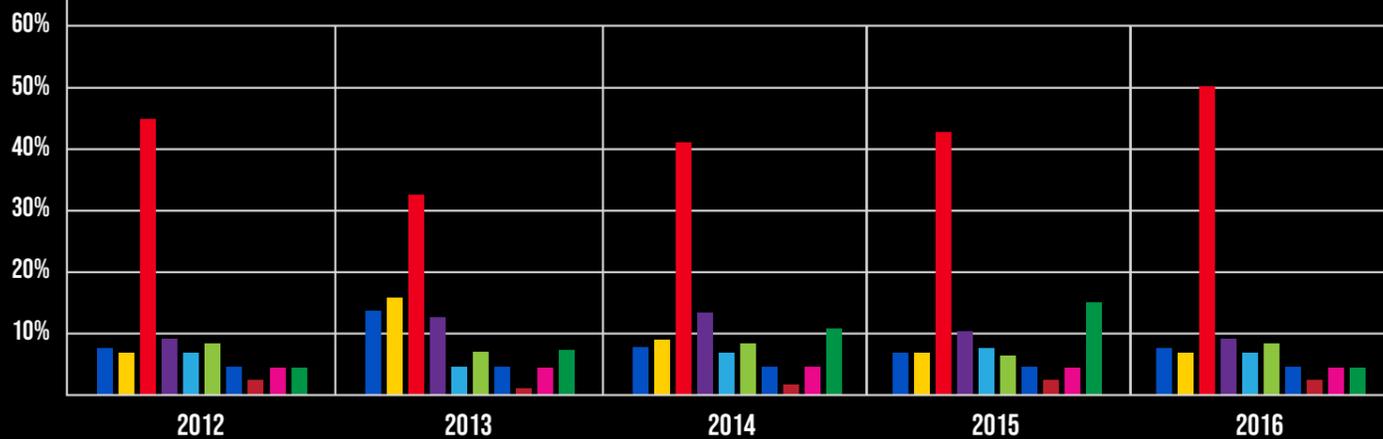
The figure of 4 780 follows 2017's record number of 5 334 reported incidents of corruption and also tops 2016's total of 4 391 cases.

From the time of its inception in early 2012, until the end of December 2020, the organisation has collected just under 33 000 reports of corruption. In our nine years of existence in which we have gathered 32 976 cases of corruption, we handle on a daily basis an average of 11 complaints from all corners of South Africa.

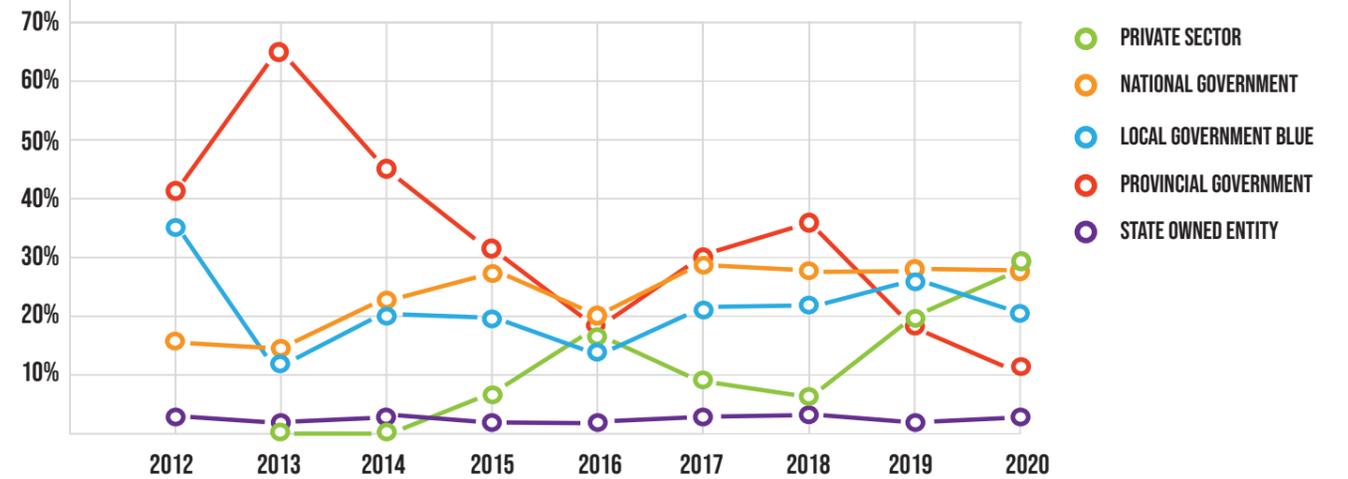
Members of the public have visited our offices to report corruption, and where this was not possible, as was the case in most of 2020, whistle-blowers have used our online platforms or called in to tell us about acts of graft in both public and private sectors.



## CORRUPTION BY PROVINCE



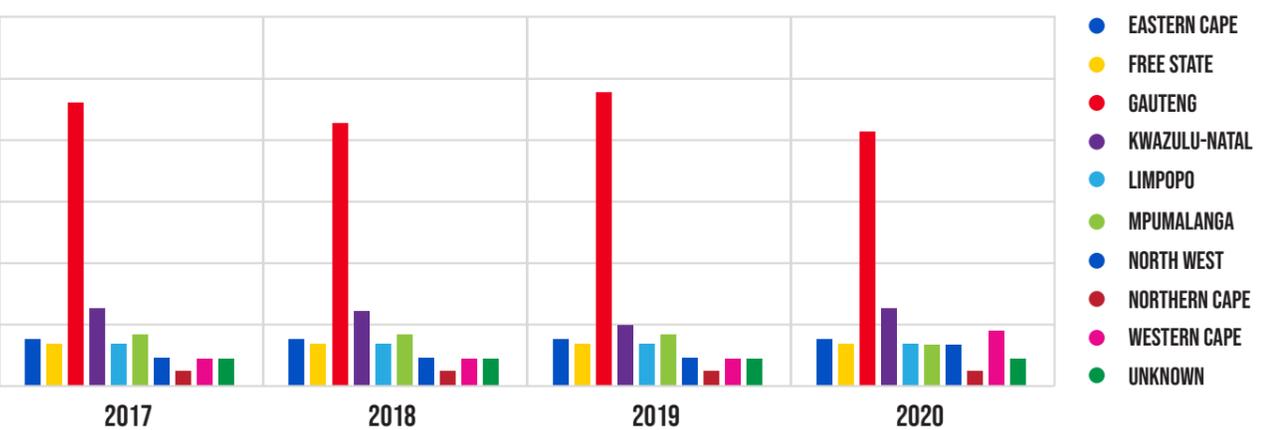
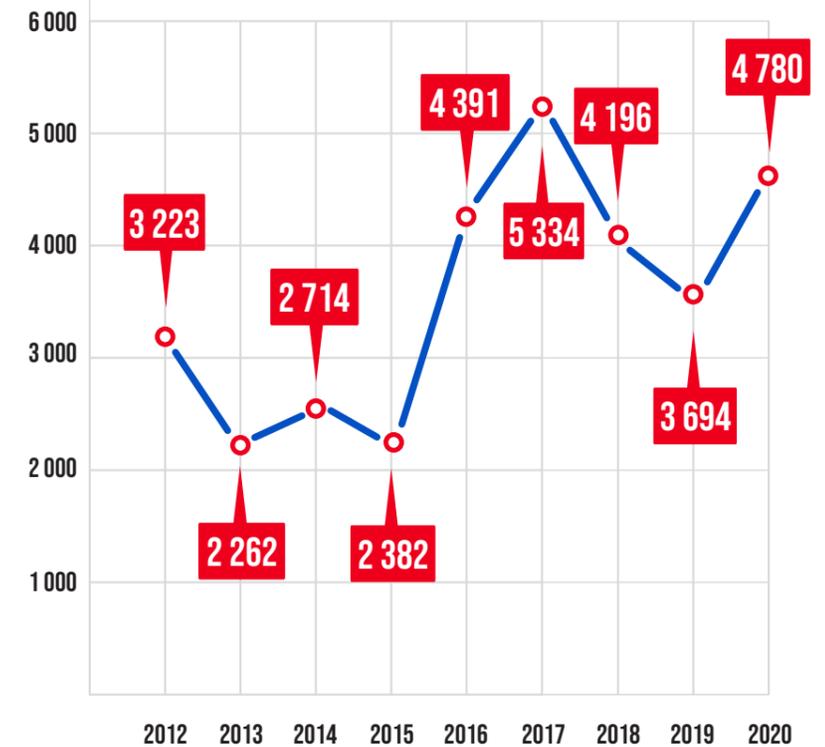
## CORRUPTION BY INSTITUTION



The majority of reports – 43% – came from Gauteng province. Significantly, the figure of 1 673 makes it the third time that the province crosses over the 1 000-report mark in a 12-month period and it is also to date the highest number of corruption complaints recorded in a single province in a year.

Completing the top three provinces in terms of number of corruption reports are KwaZulu-Natal (13%) and Western Cape (9%). The latter replaces Limpopo which held the third spot in 2019.

## WHISTLE-BLOWER REPORTS



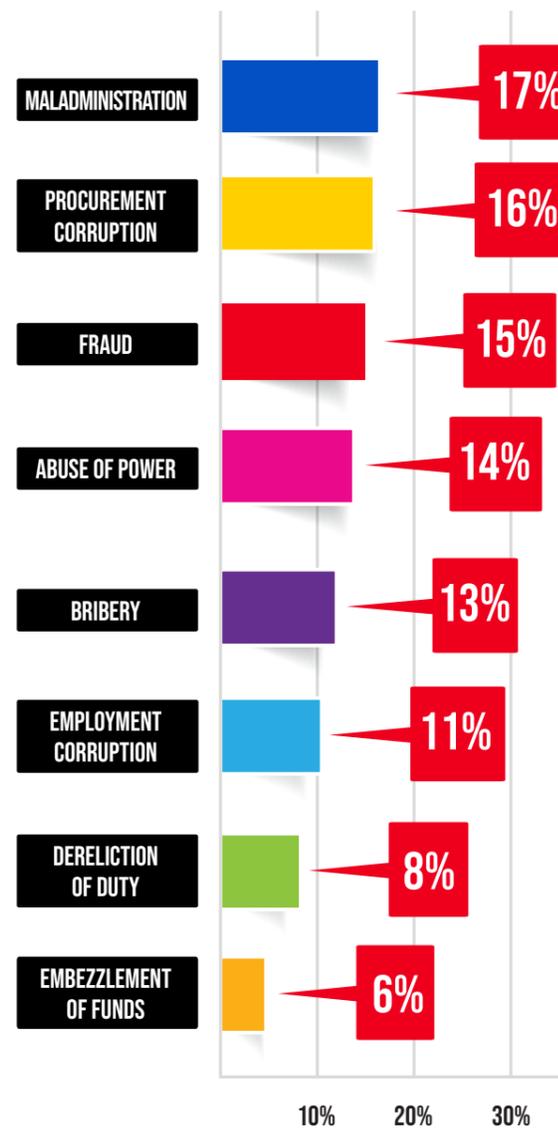
The most frequently reported forms of corruption during the year were maladministration (17%), procurement corruption (16%) and fraud (15%). These acts of corruption include issues such as compliance issues, procurement irregularities, soliciting of kickbacks, and fraudulent activities in various state institutions, agencies and departments, as well as businesses.

Of these, we note that 11% of reports allege corruption in the South African Police Service, 6% point to corruption in schools, 4% refer to corruption in the health sector, and 3% point to corruption in the awarding of driver's licenses.

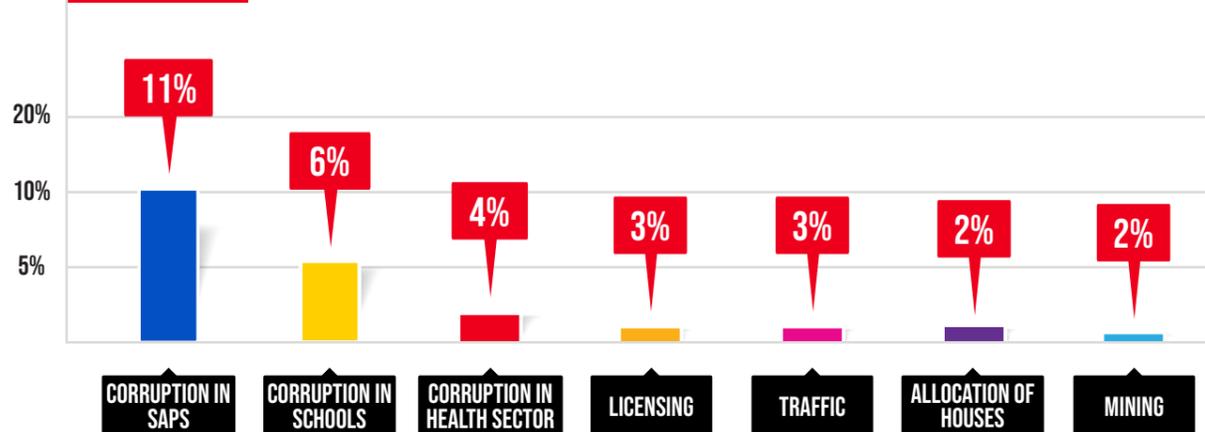
Also worth noting is that reports of police corruption have increased and this is likely owing to the fact that one of the organization's flagship projects involves police abuse and impropriety, but we also saw a spike in the volume following the Covid-19 National State of Disaster announcement and subsequent hard lockdown from late March 2020.

The types of corrupt acts highlighted by whistle-blowers in some of the aforementioned focus areas are wide-ranging. In the police, we continue to learn about dereliction of duty, abuse of power, and bribery. These count for 29%, 28% and 27% of reports, respectively. Meanwhile, in relation to the health sector, Corruption Watch still receives intel on acts of procurement corruption, employment corruption, and fraud, counting for 21%, 15% and 11% respectively.

### TYPES OF CORRUPTION



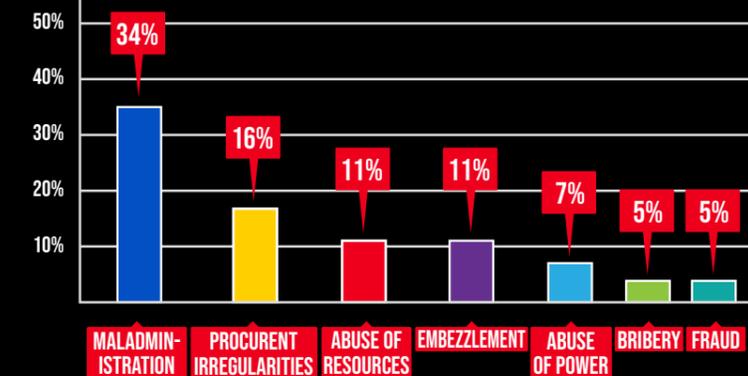
### FOCUS AREA



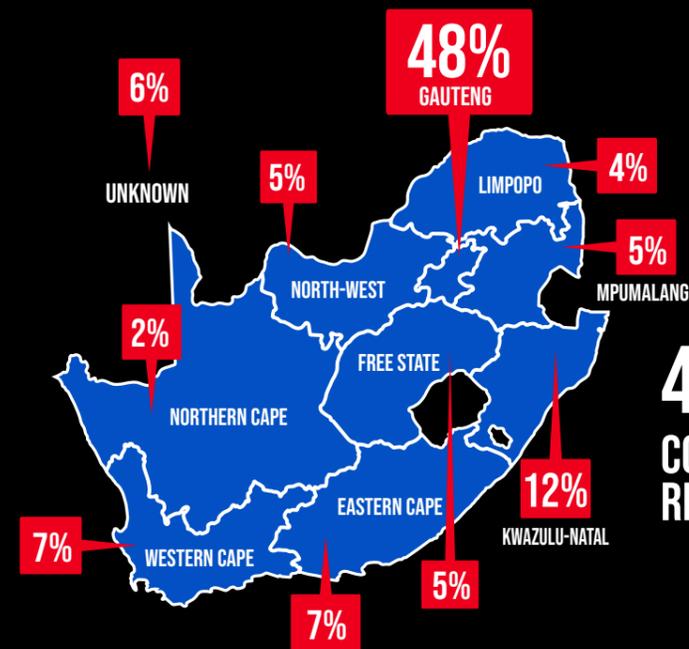
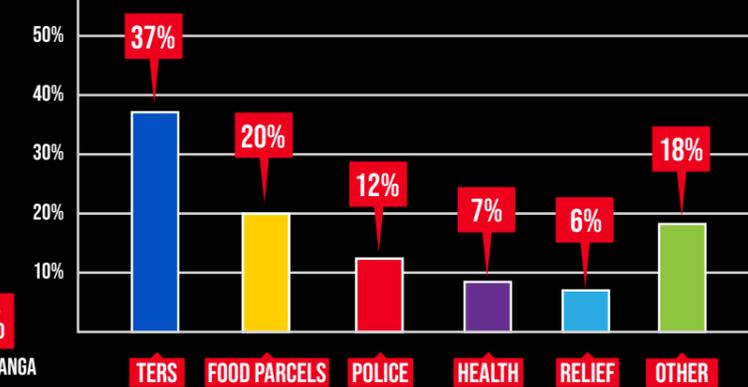
Lastly, following the declaration of the national state of disaster, Corruption Watch received 418 reports of corruption pertaining to Covid-19. Most of these activities occurred in critical sectors and institutions such as the Department of Labour's Temporary Employer-Employee Relief Scheme benefits (37%), the distribution of food parcels by mainly local municipalities (20%), and the South African Police Service (12%).

Officials in these sectors and institutions, as well as others, are alleged to have committed corrupt acts relating to maladministration (34%), misappropriation of resources (22%) and procurement corruption (16%). The provinces from which the bulk of the reported incidents are received are Gauteng (48%), KwaZulu-Natal (12%), and Eastern Cape and Western Cape (7% each).

### TYPES OF COVID-19 CORRUPTION

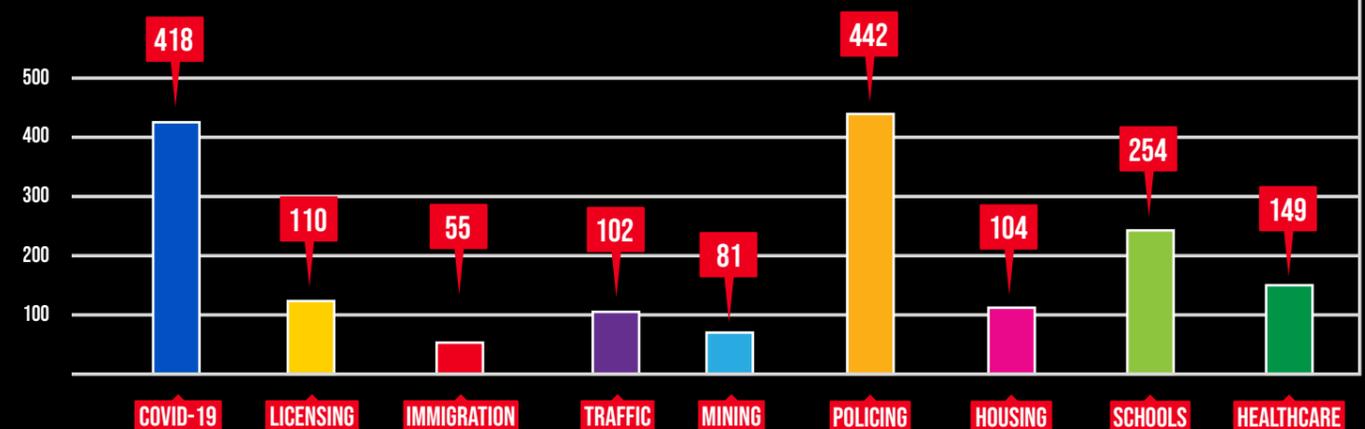


### COVID-19 CORRUPTION HOTSPOTS



**418**  
COVID-19 REPORTS RECEIVED IN 2020

### CORRUPTION HOTSPOTS 2020



# CORRUPTION HOTSPOTS

**ABUSE OF POWER** 443 REPORTS

SEXTORTION 7 REPORTS

**EMPLOYMENT CORRUPTION** 334 REPORTS

BRIBERY (FOR A JOB) 60 REPORTS

CLAIMING TIME NOT WORKED 15 REPORTS

PLACEMENT 14 REPORTS

DUAL EMPLOYMENT 7 REPORTS

GHOST WORKERS 8 REPORTS

EMPLOYMENT IRREGULARITIES 179 REPORTS

NEPOTISTIC APPOINTMENTS 59 REPORTS

**PROCUREMENT CORRUPTION** 542 REPORTS

CONFLICT OF INTEREST 18 REPORTS

BRIBERY (TENDERS) 103 REPORTS

FRONTING 33 REPORTS

PROCUREMENT IRREGULARITIES 388 REPORTS

**BRIBERY** 431 REPORTS

**EMBEZZLEMENT OF RESOURCES** 183 REPORTS

**FRAUD** 497 REPORTS

FALSIFYING QUALIFICATIONS 4 REPORTS

FRAUD 481 REPORTS

FRAUDULENT DOCUMENTS 10 REPORTS

GHOST LEARNERS 2 REPORTS

**DERELICTION OF DUTY** 264 REPORTS

**MALADMINISTRATION** 582 REPORTS





# LOCKDOWN LIFE

## LOCKDOWN EXPOSED THE VAST INEQUALITIES IN SOUTH AFRICA.

South Africa went into a hard lockdown at midnight on 26 March 2020. The national state of disaster, under which the lockdown was imposed, was due to end at midnight on 16 April but was extended several times and at the time of writing (February 2021) is still in effect.

When the novel coronavirus, named Covid-19, began to rage across the world, people were afraid and disbelieving. It was like being in a film. South Africans too were hard-hit by the pandemic, particularly those who were already struggling financially – in other words, the greater part of our population.

The lockdown exposed the vast inequalities in South Africa. Some people complained that they were unable to go to the hairdresser – but others lost their jobs, or had no money to buy food.

Corruption Watch wanted to hear from people trying to come to terms with the severe restrictions on movement and the drastic effect on economic activities.

We set up our *Lockdown Life blog*, which gathered personal accounts from people living under the initial 21-day lockdown.

Our contributors were located in several provinces and their environments ranged from the inner city and suburbs to townships and rural areas. Many of the submissions received were personal accounts of the various ways people adapted to the situation. Some complained about load shedding adding to the burden, or boisterous, bored children making their lives a misery; others warned of the dangers of drug users spreading the virus; many spoke of their harrowing experiences during the collection of food parcels.

But even more contained disturbing accounts of corruption, and pleas for us to intervene. We passed the reports that had enough information to work with on to our reports management team. Others were published on the Lockdown Life blog, where they remain today, although we stopped taking submissions once the hard lockdown was lifted.

**“I CAN BE CHANGED BY WHAT HAPPENS  
TO ME. BUT I REFUSE TO BE REDUCED BY IT.”**

**- MAYA ANGELOU**

**INEQUALITY**



# RESEARCH

## WHY IT MATTERS

Part of our work is dedicated to continually extending the public knowledge base of how corruption occurs and also seeking adaptive interventions to tackle it. Corruption itself is a moving target, so the more knowledge that is acquired on an ongoing basis, the better. Our research work entails publishing a wide array of reports across different sectors.

Over the years, we have learnt that people are willing to get involved, but they cannot fight against that which they don't know about. That said, we have seen an increase in corruption complaints each time a report is publicised, supporting the view that an increased knowledge of corruption can help activate the public to resist and expose it.

We use the reports we get to analyse and determine the types of corruption that are happening, and the areas in which they are happening. The information we gather from these reports is thus based directly on people's real-life experiences. We use this information to work with government to eliminate loopholes and weaknesses in policy and legislation.

This is in line with our mandate to work towards transparency and accountability within the private sector and state institutions, helping to ensure that corruption is addressed and reduced through the promotion and protection of democracy, rule of law and good governance.

## OUR INTERVENTIONS

In the year under review, Corruption Watch in partnership with the Water Integrity Network commissioned a research report, *Money down the Drain: Corruption in South Africa's water sector*. Authored by Mike Muller, the report presented a systematic analysis of corruption in the water sector and its impact.

We shared the corruption trends as reported by our whistle-blowers during the first half of 2020 through our *Analysis of Corruption Trends* report, more details of which appear below. Previously, our 2019 annual report, *The Writing is on the Wall* amplified the voices and the plight of the many who continued to suffer at the hands of the corrupt.

**CORRUPTION ITSELF IS A  
MOVING TARGET, SO THE  
MORE KNOWLEDGE THAT  
IS ACQUIRED ON AN  
ONGOING BASIS, THE BETTER.**





# 2020 ANALYSIS OF CORRUPTION TRENDS



In August, Corruption Watch released its third edition of the *Analysis of Corruption Trends (ACT)* report which looks at the whistle-blower reports that were received in the first half of the year. The report revealed that for the first time, Corruption Watch received more reports on corruption in policing than in other sectors such as schools, healthcare, and traffic and licensing.

“The reports that we receive provide a snapshot of the graft that has manifested in every sphere of government, with the complicity of the private sector, and encompassing multiple sectors in our society,” said Corruption Watch’s Melusi Ncala, primary researcher for this report.

We received almost 2 000 whistle-blower reports of corruption during the first half of the year – a rise of over 400 reports compared to the same period in 2019.

**THE INCREASED NUMBER OF PEOPLE REPORTING CORRUPTION TO US ILLUSTRATED THAT THE WILL OF THE PUBLIC TO EXPOSE THE CORRUPT AND SEEK CONSEQUENCES REMAINED STRONG EVEN DURING THE DIFFICULT EARLY DAYS OF PANDEMIC.**

Almost 55% of these reports came in after the declaration in mid-March of the national state of disaster. Of these reports, 13% alleged corruption in the South African Police Service, while municipal offices, schools, and traffic and licensing centres each accounted for 5% of the reports, and the health sector came in at 4%.

Together, these constituted around a third of the overall number of reports received over the period.

**CORRUPTION WATCH, IN COLLABORATION WITH LAWYERS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND SCALABRINI CENTRE OF CAPE TOWN, RELEASED A REPORT, *COSTLY PROTECTION: CORRUPTION IN SOUTH AFRICA’S ASYLUM SYSTEM***

which tracked changes in the asylum system as well as corruption in the refugee reception offices. Our report titled *X-Ray: The Critical State of the Health Sector* in SA exposed the impact of corruption particularly on those who are dependent on the public health care system for their well-being.

**WE LAUNCHED *TRANSPARENCY IN CORPORATE REPORTING: SOUTH AFRICA 2020***

in partnership with the National Business Initiative and the ODI, an independent London-based global think-tank. This report evaluated the transparency of corporate reporting by 100 companies operating in South Africa. Lastly, the *Our Future is not for Sale* report focused on the perceptions and attitudes of young people towards corruption, a very important constituency that Corruption Watch continues to engage in addressing corruption in South Africa.

**TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL (TI) EXPORTING CORRUPTION REPORT, 2020**

CW worked with TI in preparing the section on South Africa for the 2020 report, *Exporting Corruption*. This report looks at countries’ enforcement of the OECD International Convention on Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in International Business Transactions. CW engaged with representatives from the National Prosecuting Authority and the Department of Public Service and Administration in collating the data on South Africa’s investigation of foreign bribery offences.

**WHISTLE-BLOWER PROTECTION**

CW worked with Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr to produce a manual for employees and employers on their rights and obligations for whistle-blower protection. This manual will form part of the broader whistle-blower project CW has adopted for 2020/2021. CW was invited to various roundtables and seminars dedicated to the issue of whistle-blowing in the period under review.



# COLLABORATION DURING 2020

Tackling corruption can be complex for a variety of reasons; hence adopting a multidisciplinary approach by means of effective collaborations and partnerships with key stakeholders can greatly assist in strengthening anti-corruption efforts.

## Some of the successful collaborations in 2020 include:

**Health Sector Anti-Corruption Forum** – this is a multi-stakeholder body appointed by President Ramaphosa, comprised of government departments, civil society, law enforcement agencies and the private sector. Its aim is to fight fraud and corruption in the health sector. At the end of the year, the forum had received 20 allegations of corruption and maladministration. Out of these cases, 13 were under investigation while three allegations were assessed and closed<sup>5</sup>.

**National Anti-Corruption Strategy Reference Group** – this group was tasked with developing an anti-corruption strategy for South Africa which was later approved by the Cabinet. In his 2021 State of the Nation Address, President Ramaphosa confirmed that the implementation of the strategy was underway as well as the appointment of the National Anti-Corruption Advisory Council.

**Civil Society Working Group on State Capture** – this is a coalition of civil society organisations. It aims to strengthen and challenge the work of the Zondo Commission and also plays an oversight role over the commission in the interest of the public. The working group has made numerous submissions to the commission.

**Stop Covid-19 Corruption/Orange Mask Campaign** – #OrangeMaskFriday Campaign. This initiative, led by the Ahmed Kathrada Foundation in collaboration with other civil society

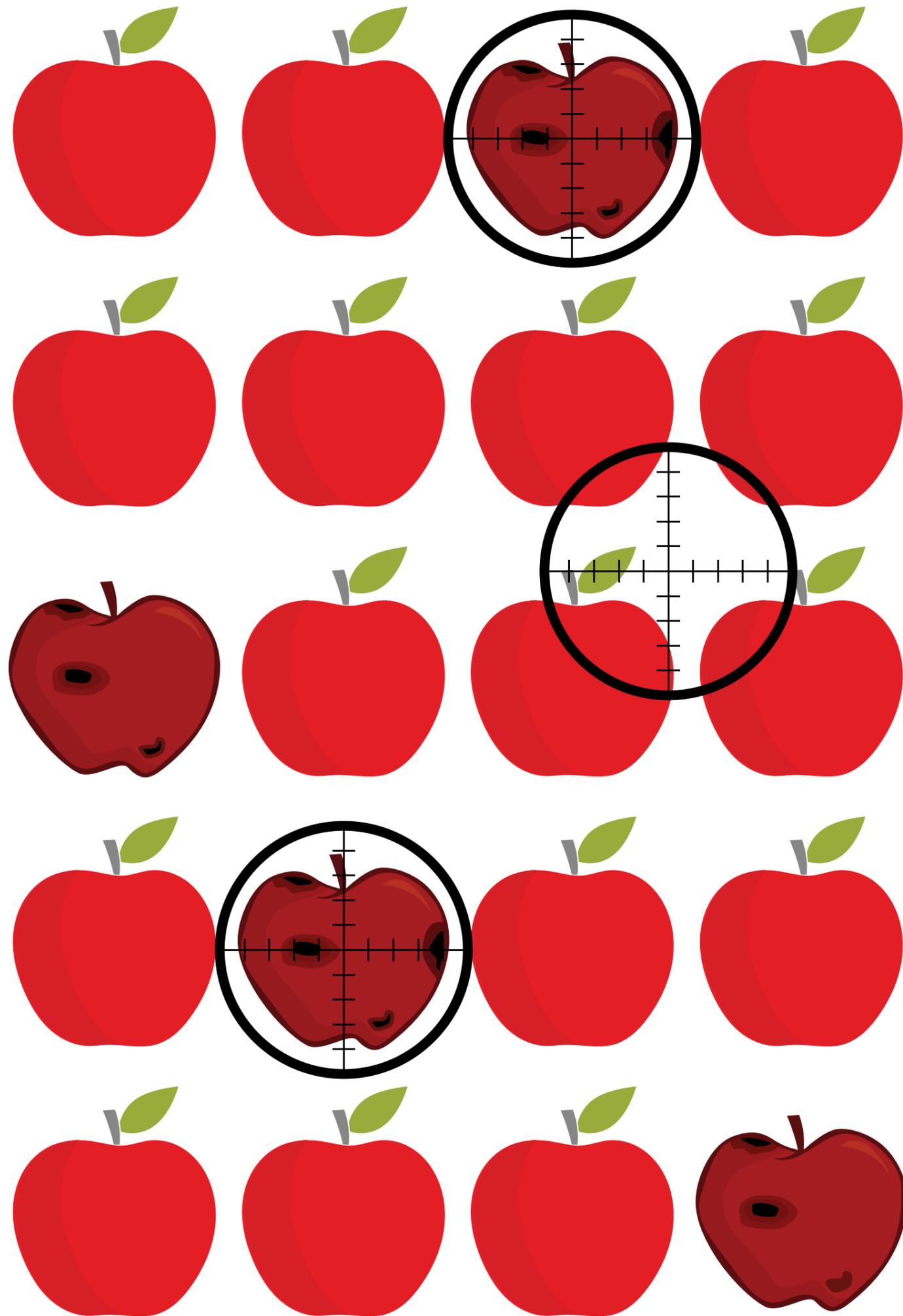
organisations, mobilised for anti-corruption activities each Friday, using the hashtag #OrangeMaskFriday. The campaign also called on the public to demonstrate their outrage against Covid-19 corruption by donning orange masks at strategic public spots throughout the country every Friday.

**Budget Justice Coalition** – this is a coalition of civil society organisations which aims to build collaborative public participation in the understanding of South Africa's budget and planning processes. It convenes budget advocacy to ensure that the government advances social, economic and environmental justice that upholds people's rights, quality of life and dignity in a developmental, equitable and redistributive way.

**Extractives Industry Transparency Initiative (EITI)** – this is the global standard for the good governance of oil, gas and mineral resources. Under the EITI standard, natural resources in implementing countries are governed to promote transparency and accountability. We teamed up with EITI to mobilise the South African government to become a member of the EITI standard of transparency in the mining sector.

We also collaborated with Amabhunghane, Open Ownership, the Department of Public Service and Administration, and the Financial Intelligence Centre to help develop beneficial ownership transparency standards through the Open Government Partnership process.

In partnership with the International Council on Mining and Metals we developed a business integrity tool to assess their policies and procedures against corruption trends, vulnerability and risks in mineral approvals processes, or engagements with government and third parties.





# CAMPAIGNS

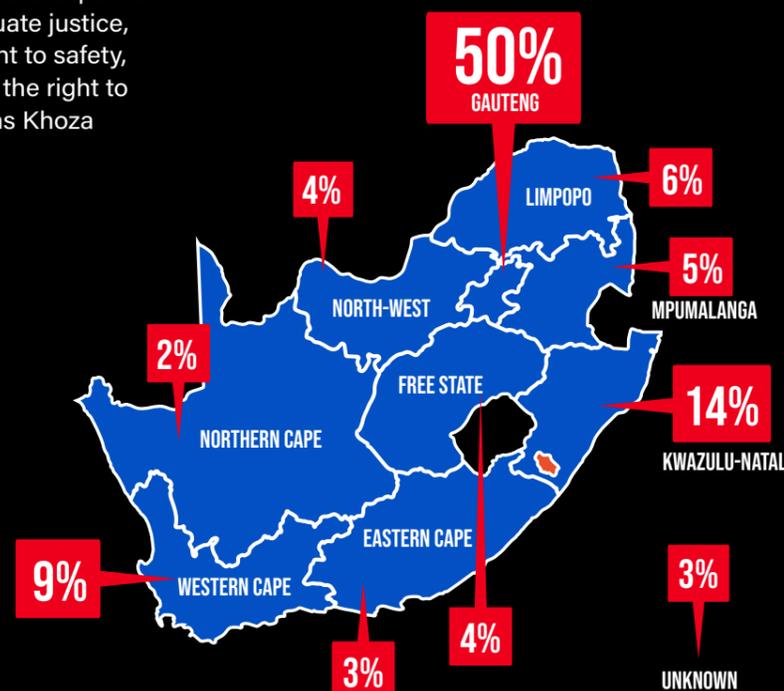
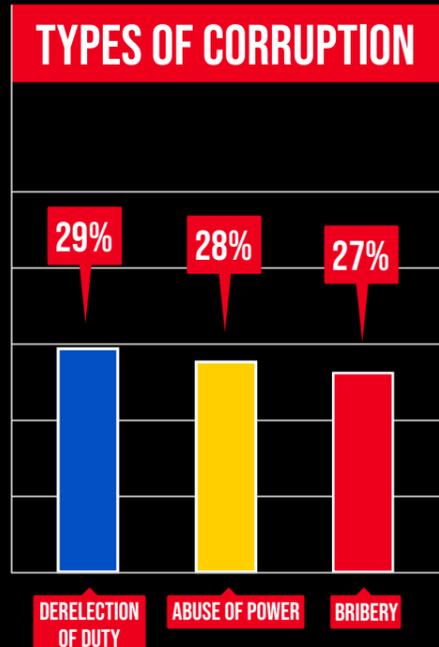
# POLICE CORRUPTION

## WHY IT MATTERS

The South African Police Service (Saps), according to the Global Corruption Barometer (2019) and Corruption Watch's Youth Perceptions survey (2020), is the most corrupt institution in South Africa. Its apartheid-era culture of impunity, brutality and abuse of power has found its way into democratic South Africa, reducing public confidence in the police service and tarnishing the courageous efforts of those dedicated police officers who risk their lives daily to make our country a safer place.

As a country, we continue to experience increasing levels of crime and corruption, which is aided and abetted by the very institutions that were set up to mitigate and combat these issues. A corrupt and brutal police service hinders our access to adequate justice, and obstructs our constitutional right to safety, dignity and in some extreme cases, the right to life – think of Nathaniel Julies, Collins Khoza and many others!

**442**  
REPORTS  
RECEIVED  
IN 2020



## OUR INTERVENTIONS

THE IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 LOCKDOWN AFFECTED OUR ABILITY TO EXECUTE FACE-TO-FACE ACTIVITIES WITH OUR CONSTITUENTS AND COMMUNITIES. BUT DESPITE THESE LIMITATIONS, CORRUPTION WATCH UNDERTOOK THE FOLLOWING IN 2020:

- Conducted mass training interventions on the public's rights in relation to policing. These training sessions were conducted on prominent community radio stations in Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal, Mpumalanga and the Eastern Cape;
- Made a submission on the Saps Amendment Bill that focused on individuals who have been appointed to the police service and who have often lacked the necessary experience, expertise and integrity – which has resulted in rampant corruption within the Saps and fuelled growing public distrust towards the institution;
- Developed an open data tool, which was launched in 2021, that will enhance transparency and accountability in South Africa's police service. This tool will allow the public to access information on all 1 100 police stations in the country, report police corruption in real time, and rate the services that they receive from various police stations.

Increased public discussion and debate is currently taking place on the state of policing in South Africa. This was brought on by the flagrant brutality, abuse of power and bribery that was experienced during the various levels of the national Covid-19 lockdown, as well as the global spotlight placed on policing by the #BlackLivesMatter movement.



In 2020, Corruption Watch recorded the highest number of police corruption reports in its history, receiving 442 whistle-blower reports. Of these whistle-blower reports, 10% are linked to the Covid-19 national lockdown and the state's response to the pandemic.



Public trust in the police service continues to diminish with 76% of respondents in Corruption Watch's Youth Perceptions survey identifying the Saps to be the most corrupt institution in the country.



# CAMPAIGNS

# HEALTH CORRUPTION

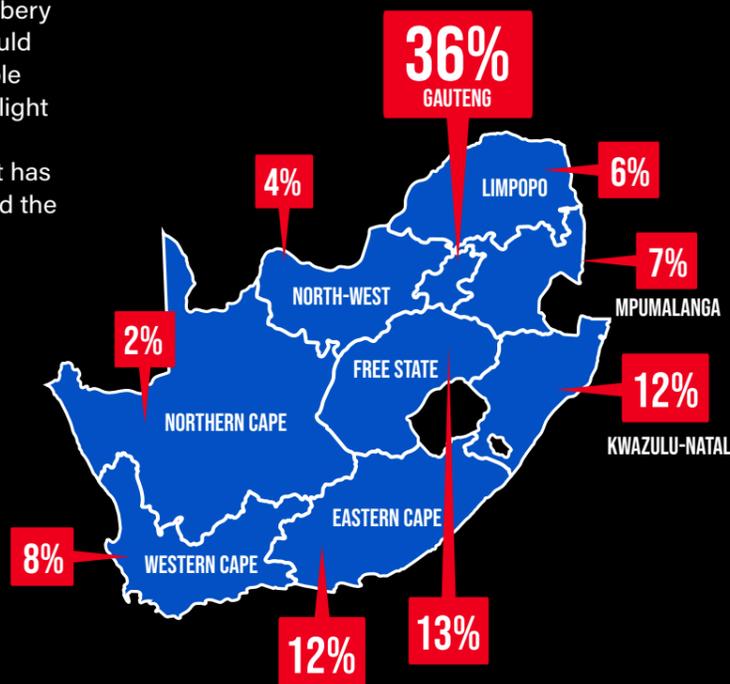
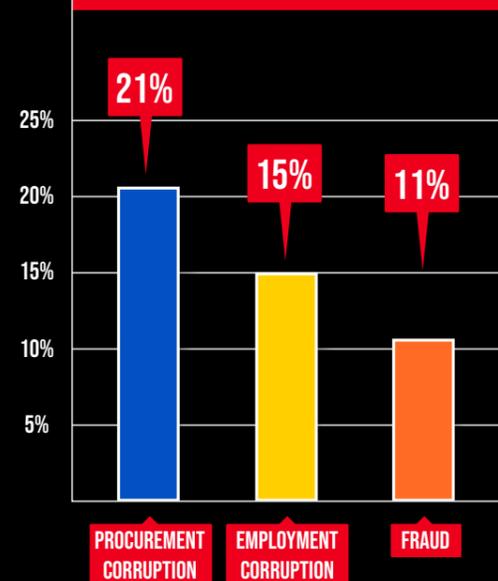
## WHY IT MATTERS

Corruption in the provision of health care is a global problem and its magnitude, already significant in both rich and poor countries, has been exacerbated by the global Covid-19 pandemic. For a number of years, the South African health sector has been a particularly lucrative locale for corruption to take place. From politician to patient, corruption has become a standard practice in our healthcare system, and along with budget austerity, it has posed a serious threat to the majority of the population that rely on public healthcare. Whilst many were aware of the weaknesses of both the public and private health facilities, Covid-19 laid bare just how vulnerable the sector truly is.

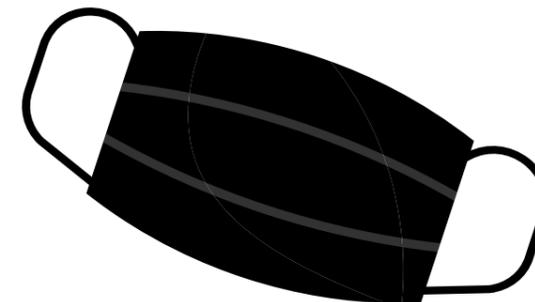
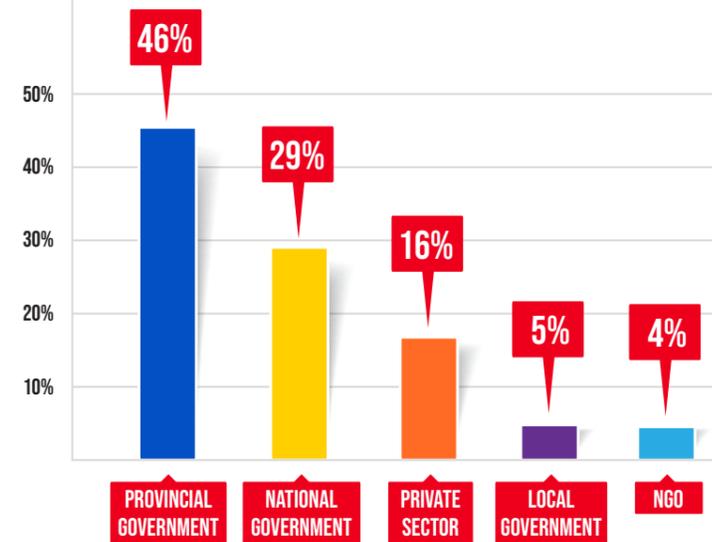
Decades of misappropriation and theft of resources, procurement corruption, and bribery were exposed when our health facilities could not contend with the vast numbers of people needing treatment for Covid-19. It is in this light that we can clearly make the case that corruption is not a silent economic crime; it has a real impact on the delivery of services and the realisation of our basic human right to adequate healthcare.

**149**  
REPORTS  
RECEIVED  
IN 2020

## TYPES OF CORRUPTION



## INSTITUTIONAL LOCATION



## OUR INTERVENTIONS

- **Corruption Watch continues to be an active member of the Health Sector Anti-Corruption Forum (HSACF)** – a multi-stakeholder body comprised of government departments, civil society, law enforcement agencies and the private sector. Through this forum, Corruption Watch has been referring whistle-blower complaints for investigation / intervention by various bodies.
- **As a member of the HSACF, Corruption Watch hosted four webinars on issues relating to corruption in the public and private health sector.** Topics included an overview of the HSACF and the work it has completed to date, the National Health Insurance's vulnerability to corruption, fraud and collusion in the private health sector, and lastly, updates from heads of South Africa's top law enforcement agencies on their investigations into Covid-19 related corruption.
- **In July 2020, Corruption Watch released a report on corruption in the health sector based on the whistle-blower reports that the organisation received from the public.** The report, titled *X-ray: The critical state of the health sector in SA*, revealed trends, patterns and hotspots of corruption in the health sector.
- **We conducted mass training interventions on corruption in the healthcare sector, via prominent community radio stations in four provinces.**

**Given the state's failure concerning procurement during the pandemic, Corruption Watch continues to demand transparency and reform of the tender processes to avoid future misuse and abuse of public funds. Through our Open Contracting for Health project, we are working towards and advocating for greater public access to contracting information so that third parties can effectively monitor the implementation of tenders.**

[READ MORE >](#)



# HEALTH CORRUPTION OPEN CONTRACTING FOR HEALTH (OC4H) PROJECT

## WHY IT MATTERS

Through our engagements with various civil society organisations, we realised that efforts to monitor the implementation of tenders is undermined by the lack of access to information. Requests under PAIA are routinely met with the lawful ground of refusal that the information is *commercially and legally sensitive*.

We therefore undertook legal research to determine exactly which information has to be published, ways to access it, and what is actually considered to be legally and commercially sensitive.

## OUR INTERVENTIONS

- We worked with TI to develop a **comprehensive activity plan for 2020/2021** which takes account of the legislative opportunities in South Africa, as well as the uncertainties presented by Covid-19 and the lockdown.

- We are engaging with the **National Health Insurance (NHI) process**, and have been involved in joint strategy meetings (spearheaded by SECTION27) regarding advocacy around NHI.
- We attended a **TI-convened workshop in Kenya in February 2020** which focused on the implementation of open contracting in developing countries.
- Our supplier, **Open Cities Lab**, is due to **complete the task of mapping all the available information currently published on governmental procurement portals**. This will enable us to make recommendations on how this publication can be improved and will be an important advocacy tool for CW.
- The **OC4H project continues to be actively involved in Imali Yethu**, a coalition of civil society organisations working with the **National Treasury** to make budget information more accessible, user-friendly and empowering through the *Vulekamali* data portal.

The initial Vulekamali project has come to an end, but Imali Yethu is engaging with the treasury on setting up a second phase of the project to ensure that the momentum is not lost.

- The project commissioned an opinion on the **Public Procurement Bill which was completed by Adv Johan De Waal of the Cape Bar**, and used to inform some parts of CW's submission in mid-year on the bill to Parliament. CW and the Public Affairs Research Institute also sent an open letter to the president and the minister of finance, calling for them to exercise greater leadership in the Procurement Bill process.
- We commissioned **Professor Geo Quinot from the University of Stellenbosch to develop a note on emergency procurement** (with a focus on procurement under the current state of disaster).

- The **Open Contracting Partnership hosted training sessions** on our behalf for journalists and civil society in December.
- **CW authored a joint article with FTI Consulting, titled *South Africa's governance structures need an overhaul to address corruption challenge***. The piece discussed the need for a more transparent procurement system, and set out the benefits of open contracting.

Through the OC4H project and the Procurement Watch project, we have tried to develop an approach to monitoring procurement and engaging with the issue of procurement reform. This will form a major focus in 2021. This engagement has wide interface with monitoring government's response to the Covid-19 pandemic. We wrote detailed letters to National Treasury, which went unanswered, relating to how emergency procurement was taking place.

However, CW was able to develop a profile as a thought leader on issues relating to procurement fraud and corruption in the period under review in no small part to the focused attention given to the issue through the focus on health and transparency.



# CAMPAIGNS LEADERSHIP APPOINTMENTS

**THE OBJECTIVES OF OUR WORK INVOLVE ADVOCATING FOR CANDIDATES TO BE APPOINTED IN A TRANSPARENT MANNER.**

## WHY IT MATTERS

Since 2016, Corruption Watch has actively focused on campaigning around appointment processes of leaders to institutions in our criminal justice system, state-owned enterprises, and institutions established under Chapter 9 of the Constitution of South Africa.

The objectives of our work involve advocating for candidates to be appointed in a transparent manner, ensuring that individuals are assessed against clear, merit-based criteria, and creating avenues for public participation in the process.

Independent and robust institutions that act in the public interest, and who operate without fear, favour or prejudice, are imperative to safeguarding South Africa's constitutional democracy. The collapse of these institutions gives rise to a state where there are no adequate checks and balances, where impunity prevails, and where the public is made vulnerable to the abuse of our constitutional rights.

## OUR INTERVENTIONS

In 2020, we focused on three key appointments:

1. The executive director of the Independent Policing Investigative Directorate (Ipid);
2. The auditor-general (AG) of South Africa;
3. The chairperson of the National Lotteries Commission (NLC).

Whilst the process to appoint the Ipid executive director was flawed and lacked merit, and selection of the NLC chairperson is still underway (at the time of writing this report), our involvement in the process to appoint the AG resulted in a highly skilled and qualified candidate assuming office as the first female AG in South Africa.

Aside from the five submissions made on the above-mentioned appointments to various parliamentary committees, Corruption Watch made a submission to the Judicial Commission of Inquiry into State Capture, which highlighted the National Assembly's role in the appointment of leadership positions to key oversight institutions.

**WE ARGUED THAT THIS CAPACITY SHOULD BE STRENGTHENED TO PREVENT COMPROMISED INDIVIDUALS FROM ASSUMING POSITIONS IN ORGANISATIONS THAT ARE MEANT TO PROTECT AND DEFEND OUR DEMOCRACY.**

Our submission made five recommendations that range from a review of the necessary legislation and establishing multi-stakeholder appointment structures, to integrity testing, transparency and public participation.



## SNAPSHOT

In July 2020, the parliamentary Ad Hoc Committee on the Appointment of the Auditor-General considered the proposals submitted by Corruption Watch and sought a legal opinion. The legal opinion confirmed that Corruption Watch's submission was in line with the constitutional obligation for fair and transparent appointment processes, and as a result, the Ad Hoc Committee amended its schedule for the selection process.

Following a rigorous vetting, interviewing and deliberations process, Parliament recommended that Tsakane Maluleke be appointed as the auditor-general, stepping into the esteemed shoes of the late Kimi Makwethu. In November 2020, President Ramaphosa confirmed this appointment. This process undertaken by the Ad Hoc Committee sets a positive precedent for future parliamentary appointments.



# CAMPAIGNS TRANSPARENCY IN CORPORATE REPORTING

## WHY IT MATTERS

As is always the case, corruption is not just a public sector issue – the private sector and business elite are deeply implicated too. Better transparency through corporate reporting is an important step in the fight against corruption in and by business.

Transparency on activities and performance through corporate reporting is a crucial element of corporate governance, and contributes towards better performance – it also improves market competition and creates peer pressure, driving performance improvement.

## OUR INTERVENTIONS

After conducting an extensive study, in December 2020 Corruption Watch, in partnership with the Overseas Development Institute and the National Business Initiative, released the *Transparency in Corporate Reporting: South Africa report*.

The methodology involved accessing public information – in annual reports and on websites – of 100 corporations operating in South Africa, to score their reporting across three themes:

- 1. THEIR ANTI-CORRUPTION PROGRAMMES**  
policy, management and activities;
- 2. THEIR ORGANISATIONAL TRANSPARENCY**  
information on subsidiary and associated companies;
- 3. THEIR COUNTRY-BY-COUNTRY REPORTING OF KEY FINANCIAL DATA**  
for operations outside of South Africa.

The sample covers all industries and includes:

<b>61</b>	<b>JSE-LISTED COMPANIES</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>LARGELY PRIVATELY OWNED COMPANIES</b>
<b>07</b>	<b>STATE-OWNED ENTERPRISES</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>FOREIGN MULTINATIONALS</b> eight of which have JSE listings

The 100 companies in the sample scored an average of 59.5% across the three themes.

The results of our study found that companies scored an average of:

<b>58.7%</b>	<b>89.9%</b>	<b>36.2%</b>
Anti-corruption programmes	Organisational transparency	Country-by-country reporting

## TOP 5 COMPANIES

The five top-ranked companies are:

- 1. RMB**
- 2. CITY LODGE**
- 3. EXXARO RESOURCES**
- 4. FIRSTRAND**
- 5. STANDARD BANK**

all of which averaged 85.3% across all themes, with an average of 88.6% for their anti-corruption programmes.

## FIVE LOWEST RANKING COMPANIES

The five lowest-ranking companies ARE:

- 1. CONCOR CONSTRUCTION**
- 2. PREMIER FOODS**
- 3. VIRGIN MOBILE**
- 4. PRIMEDIA**
- 5. ARENA (TIMES MEDIA)**

all of which scored below 5%.





# CAMPAIGNS

# THE IMPACT OF CORRUPTION ON WOMEN

## WHY IT MATTERS

Corruption in South Africa is a system of power, playing on forces of demand and supply, and the influence that comes from being in a position of authority. However, corruption is not the only power structure that exists in South African society – racism, class, and political connections are obvious ones linked to corruption.

However, another extremely pervasive power system in our country is patriarchy, for our purposes defined very simply as a hierarchy of sexes within society, where men are at the top and women are at the bottom. The persistence of patriarchy in South Africa is a dominant contributing factor to its high rates of gender-based violence (GBV), with some of the highest rates of rape and femicide in the world. In many instances, the cultures of corruption and patriarchy intersect – the impact of which we at Corruption Watch are committed to investigating and resolving.

## OUR INTERVENTIONS

Before Parliament are three bills amending various laws, in order to combat the GBV scourge in South Africa. In October, Corruption Watch made a submission to Parliament, which focused on the intersection of corruption with gender-based violence.

We proposed that sextortion be defined by both anti-corruption and anti-GBV legislation, and be established as a specific offence. Corruption, as defined in the Prevention and Combating of Corrupt Activities Act, does provide for the scope of sexual favours to be considered corruption. However, by allowing for prosecution of both parties to the offence, it does not necessarily take into consideration unequal power dynamics that might result in the forced exchange of sexual favours for access to basic needs and services. Furthermore, lack of awareness of sextortion as a form of corruption may contribute to under-reporting. In addition to this proposal, Corruption Watch emphasised the necessity of tackling police attitudes and police corruption to address GBV, considering that the police play an integral role in the access to justice for survivors. Drawing on anecdotal reports of patriarchal attitudes within policing services, as well as reports that we received,

**WE ARGUED THAT POLICE MUST  
HAVE IMPROVED, FEMINIST-ORIENTED  
TRAINING IN ANTI-GBV AS WELL AS  
ANTI-CORRUPTION, IN ORDER TO DELIVER  
BETTER SERVICES TO SURVIVORS.**





# CAMPAIGNS YOUTH AND CORRUPTION

## ACCORDING TO SOUTH AFRICA'S YOUTH, THE TOP FIVE MOST CORRUPT INSTITUTIONS IN THE COUNTRY ARE:

1. South African Police Service (76%)
2. Local Government (75%)
3. Traffic & Licensing Departments (75%)
4. Parliament (68%)
5. Business Sector (49%)

### WHY IT MATTERS

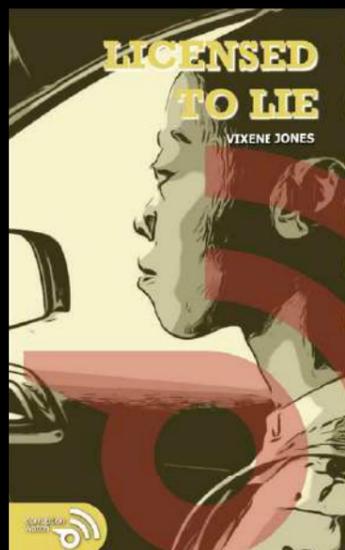
Throughout history, young people have been at the forefront of the fight for justice, accountability and a better world. In every generation, its youth have been vocal and radical in challenging power and demanding change. The current generation is no different. But today's youth have a lot to contend with – the existential threat of climate change, capitalism in all its manifestations, growing inequality, unemployment, addiction, gender-based violence, and economic collapse, while rampant corruption has undoubtedly placed a price tag on our futures.

Corruption Watch understands that in order to tip the corruption scales in South Africa toward a corrupt-free society, young people have to be active in the fight against corruption. The mass looting of public funds and impunity within both the public and private sectors will result in the next generation inheriting a society that is more unequal and unjust than it currently is.

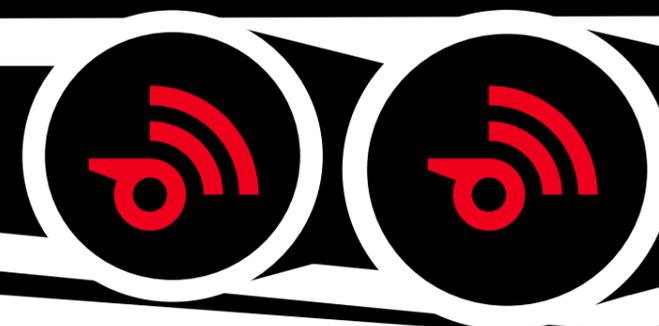
### OUR INTERVENTIONS

In mid-2020 Corruption Watch commissioned a study to understand youth perceptions and attitudes towards corruption in South Africa. The purpose of the survey was to shed light on the past and present behaviours and attitudes of young people, and to gain insight on what the future holds for this group, when confronted by corruption as a motivating factor for survival or self-enrichment.

To mark International Anti-Corruption Day, Corruption Watch released a [series of short stories in e-book format](#), for young people and produced by young authors, on various anti-corruption themes.



In our efforts to raise awareness about corruption, Corruption Watch targeted young people through our mass training interventions on community radio stations and called on the youth of South Africa to get involved in the fight against corruption.



### OUR FINDINGS

1. South African youth understand what corruption is and the effect that it is having on our society.
2. Unemployment, abuse of power, greed and low-to-no income are perceived to be major drivers of corruption.
3. Although most young people claim to have not committed corruption in the past, a significant increase in youth would be willing to pay a bribe in future in order to secure a job.
4. There is evidence of people being asked for sexual favours in exchange for employment.
5. Young people generally do not trust politicians and big business.
6. Youth view the South African Police Service and local government to be the most corrupt institutions in South Africa.
7. Young people think that corruption is at a far higher level now than it was previously.

# CAMPAIGNS

# CORRUPTION IN THE MINING SECTOR

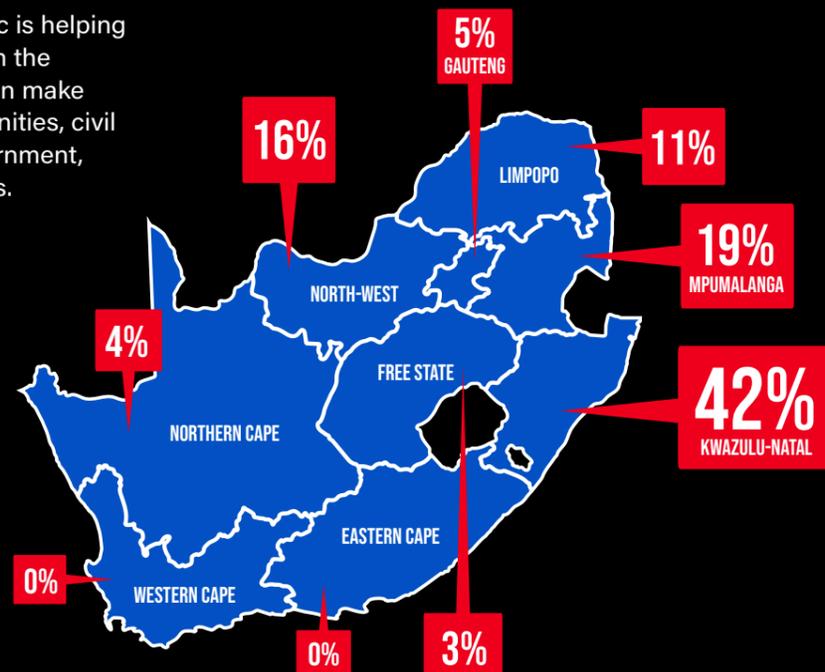
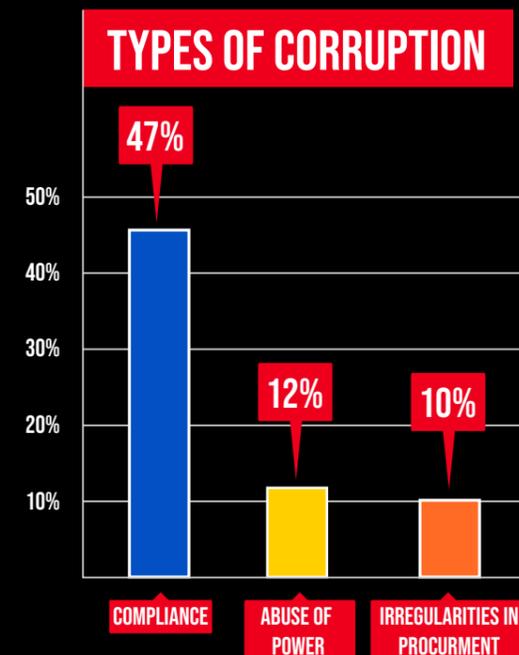
**The Accountable Mining Programme**  
(formerly Mining for Sustainable Development)

## WHY IT MATTERS

South Africa has an abundance of mineral resources, which translates into a substantial mining industry and a direct source of foreign investment. However, pervasive corruption in the industry means that communities who live close to mines often find that not only have they been swindled out of benefits due to them, but their health and livelihoods have suffered too. Much of that corruption happens at the start of the application process, where communities are excluded from negotiations and shady deals are set up on their behalf, often without their knowledge.

Our research into this important topic is helping to identify numerous vulnerabilities in the mining application process, so we can make various recommendations to communities, civil society, mining companies and government, who are all key players in the process.

**81**  
REPORTS  
RECEIVED  
IN 2020

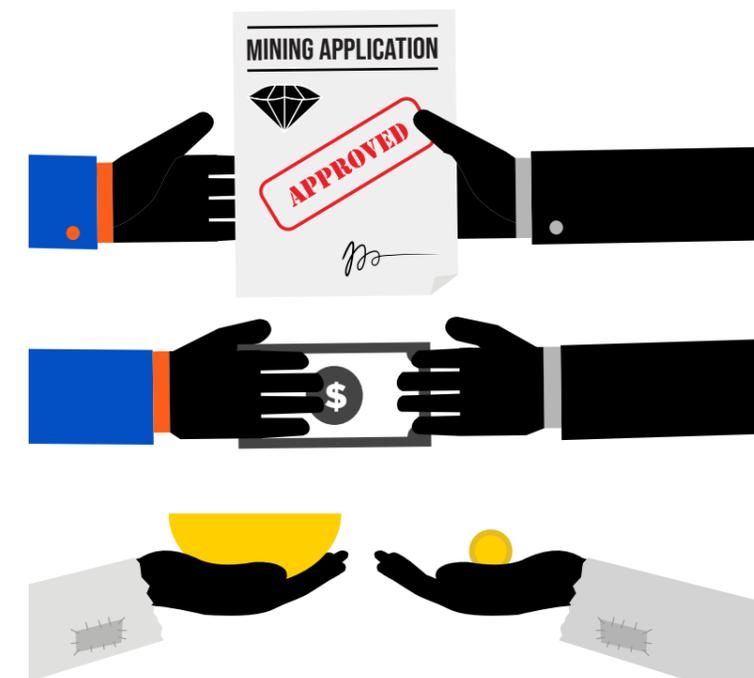


## OUR INTERVENTIONS

- We hosted two side events at the Alternative Mining Indaba in Cape Town.
- CW established a strategic partnership with World Economic Forum's Mines and Metals Group and Partnering Against Corruption Initiative to promote business integrity and anti-corruption in mining sector permitting, and is working together to convene industry players, catalyse dialogue and generate new knowledge and insights to strengthen performance in this critical area.
- We worked closely with the EITI Secretariat on their outreach activities in South Africa.
- We continued to work with the Bench Marks Foundation, the Mining and Environmental Justice Community Network of South Africa and the North West-based Mining Affected Communities United in Action in identifying mine-affected communities that are relevant to the programme and in areas where we do not already have a footprint.
- We made submissions on the Minerals Petroleum and Resources Development Regulations calls for comment, and the Draft Upstream Petroleum Resources Bill calls for comment.
- We engaged with the Department of Public Service and Administration (DPSA) and Open Government Partnership (OGP) on beneficial ownership transparency and opportunities for advocacy, and followed up by facilitating a beneficial ownership policy setting webinar with the DPSA, OGP, Financial Intelligence Centre (FIC), Department of Trade and Industry, and various CSOs in the revenue transparency space.
- Alongside the FIC as the project's government lead as per the OGP's requirements, we became the civil society lead on beneficial ownership transparency. We also drafted the OGP milestones for the next three-year cycle of the OGP national action plan, and this was submitted to the minister of public service and administration for signature and approval into the final draft.
- We analysed the reports and evidence provided in our target communities of Limpopo, North West, Mpumalanga, and Northern Cape, to design participation surveys specific to the respective community's context. We started dissemination of the survey for community participation together with the translated license maps as public education material.
- We reviewed the Inter-Governmental Forum on Mining, Minerals Metals and Sustainable Development guidance for government document on community engagements.
- We finalised the implementation of a business integrity tool with two multinational mining companies with business units in South Africa. We envisage that the public launch of the tool will happen in 2021. The two partners in the project are also scheduled to be revealed upon launch.

## OUR RESEARCH IS HELPING TO

**IDENTIFY NUMEROUS VULNERABILITIES  
IN THE MINING APPLICATION PROCESS.**





# CORRUPTION IN THE MINING SECTOR

## MINING ROYALTIES PROJECT

### WHY IT MATTERS

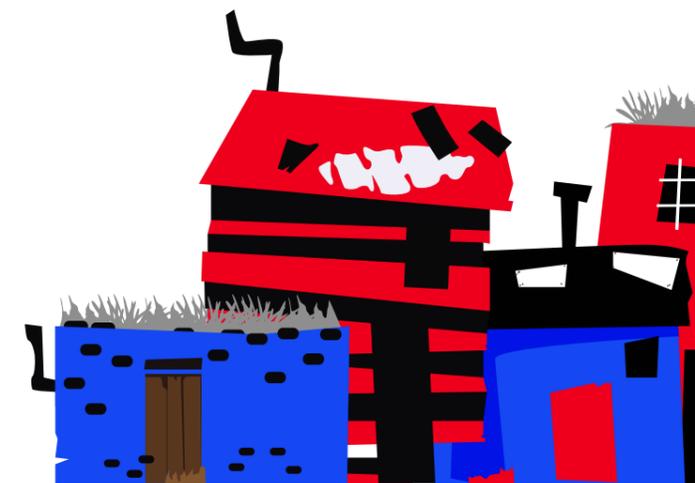
The plunder of mining royalties involves huge sums of money stolen from some of the most poverty-stricken communities in the country – largely happening under the radar precisely because the affected communities have no voice. Our project examines the history and evolution of South Africa's mining royalties system, with the aim of facilitating and improving transparency and accountability in the distribution of these funds to communities.

By researching how and why the problems occur in revenue management, focusing particularly on corruption vulnerabilities and key risk areas, we can understand the impact of the maladministration of mining royalties on communities in the region, and identify the gaps in the legislative and policy frameworks that adversely affect the processes. We have identified lack of adequate community engagement, the involvement of traditional leadership, mining companies entering into revenue-sharing agreements with select members of the community, and the role of provincial government, as key risk areas.

### OUR INTERVENTIONS

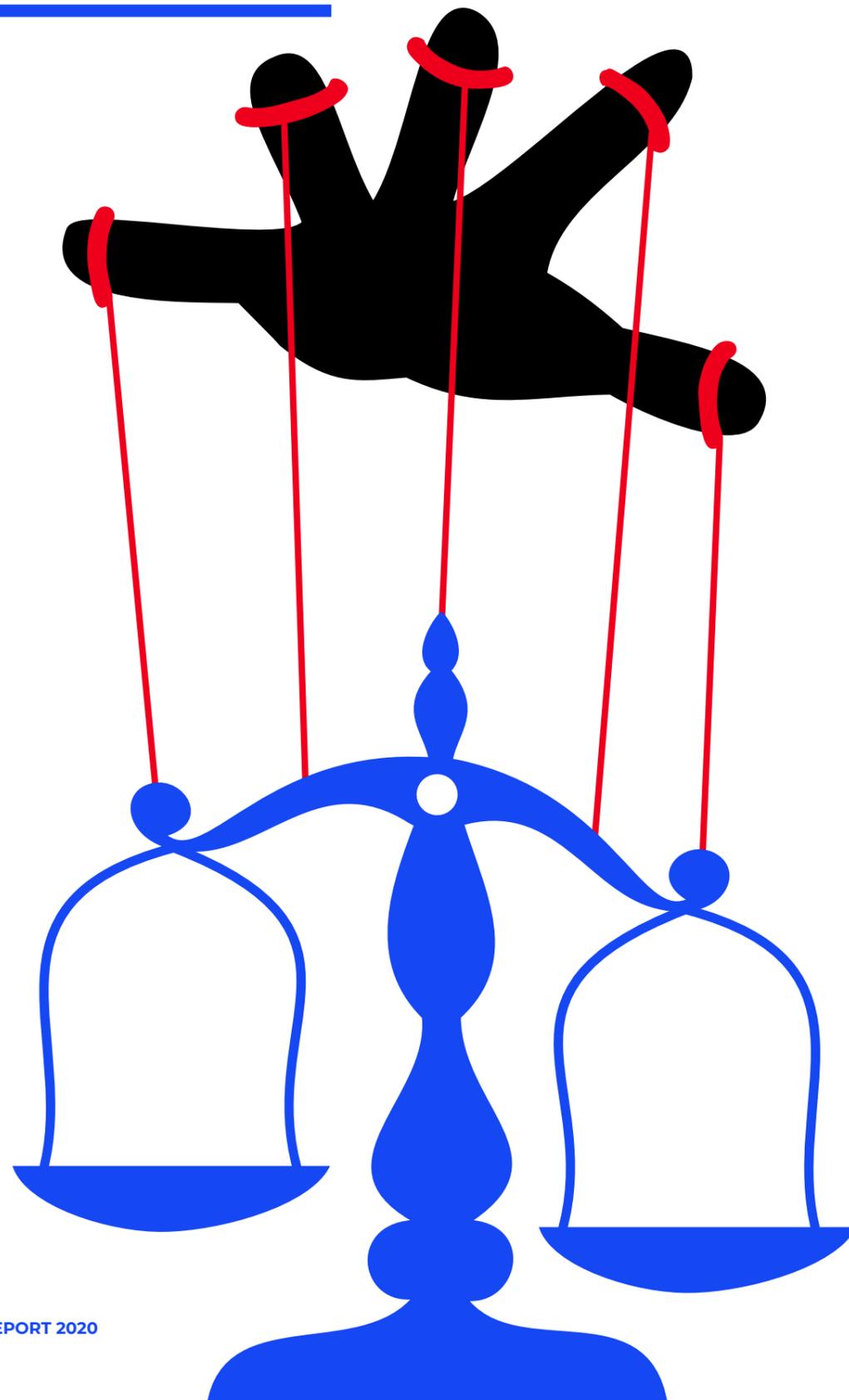
- Our research has involved interviews and engagements with community members, and the examination of specific case studies. We continue to formulate strategic interventions that address the mismanagement and maladministration of community royalties, through engagements, meetings and side events.
- We used the Baloyi Commission of Enquiry Report into the Bakgatla ba Kgafela community in the North West as an opportunity to create awareness and sustained advocacy.
- We engaged with the North West premier's office regarding traditional governance issues that have the potential to negatively affect the management of community royalties.
- We continue to profile communities, based on reports of corruption and abuse of power in the management and administration of community royalties. This is ongoing research which we will use to advocate for the establishment of a commission of enquiry to look into the role played by the provincial government in the alleged cases of mismanagement of development accounts of traditional communities.
- We engaged with the premier's office and the Department of Corporative Governance and Traditional Affairs regarding the recent appointment of an administrator to manage the community monies of the Bakwena ba Mogopa community in the North West.
- We engaged with Parliament's Standing Committee on Public Accounts, requesting urgent intervention on the management of royalties in the North West.
- We procured research consultants to conduct desk-based research, the outcome of which will enhance our advocacy aims in this unique area of the sector.
- One of our key interventions was the Bapo ba Mogale community report regarding the release of the report of the Mafereka commission of Enquiry. We took a dual approach of correspondence with provincial government and a media campaign, including an op-ed in City Press, which received great media attention on the abuse of commissions of enquiry, specifically in traditional communities.

We continue to engage with the premier regarding the release of the Mafereka report.





# LITIGATION



## WHY IT MATTERS

We choose our battles by considering our resources and the impact our participation would make. If our participation in the case would be in the public interest as far as the fight against corruption is concerned, we will contribute to it.

Some of our significant interventions in the area of strategic litigation involve recouping public money – such as the ruling requiring Cash Paymaster Services (CPS) to pay back the R316 million which it had unlawfully acquired from the South African Social Security Agency (Sassa). We also focused on ensuring ethical leadership – our delinquency case against five former Eskom directors is an example.

Our strategic litigation helps to hold entrusted leaders accountable, prevent abuse of the public purse, and sets important legal precedent, such as our successful review in 2019 of the Seriti commission's report which established that it is legally possible to set aside the final report of a commission of inquiry.

## OUR INTERVENTIONS

### Cash Paymaster Services v Corruption Watch and 2 others (Case No. 1029/18)

In February 2020, the Constitutional Court declined to hear the appeal brought by CPS against the judgment of the Supreme Court of Appeal (SCA) on the grounds that there were no reasonable prospects of success and it did not concern a matter within the Constitutional Court's jurisdiction. The SCA had ruled that an alleged contract entered into between CPS and Sassa was invalid, and ordered CPS to repay the R316 million (plus interest) paid to CPS from Sassa as a result of that contract. Following this an announcement was made that CPS would go into business rescue. CW has been tracking this process to understand whether there is a basis to intervene further if necessary.

### Corruption Watch (RF) NPC v Eskom Holdings SOC Limited and 6 others

In November 2018 CW lodged an application against five former Eskom board members, asking the court to declare them delinquent.

The case has been referred to case management due to failures from the respondents to adhere to filing deadlines. Following the release of the Special Investigating Unit's (SIU) summons against the delinquent directors, we held discussions with SIU around information sharing around the two cases and the possibility that that the SIU will join our matter. The discussions are on-going.

### Party Political Funding Act promulgation

CW was approached to consider being the applicant in an application to compel the president to commence the Political Party Funding Act. The process would start with a letter of demand to the Presidency, and depending on the response, could lead to an application to the High Court. The letter was drafted and sent in late 2020. On Christmas Eve, December 2020, the Presidency informed us – just before making an official announcement – that the Act would commence on 1 April 2021.

### Public Protector // Speaker of Parliament

While Parliament continues with its processes, the public protector has approached the courts to contest the process being used to assess the fitness to hold office and possible removal. Along with CASAC, CW entered this case as *amicus curiae* to provide the court with comparative international law research on the process of removing an ombudsperson. Heads of argument as *amicus* were heard in the matter in January 2021.





# LEGAL INTERVENTIONS

## WHY IT MATTERS

Litigation is often a last step, and is not necessary in every case. Letters of inquiry, or media queries if we are working on a story, can yield results – depending on what results are desired. If, for instance, we are seeking clarity on a matter, and such clarity will help to move our work in that matter forward or even bring it to a close, a detailed letter setting out specific questions and asking for a response is likely to give us that clarity without having to approach a court.

Filing requests for information under the Promotion of Access to Information Act is another important legal route of intervention that we use to try to obtain information.

## OUR INTERVENTIONS

### Department of Trade and Industry

CW sent a letter to the minister of trade and industry detailing concerns about department officials allegedly receiving kickbacks and other forms of bribery within department programmes. We requested that the minister provide us with information on how allegations of corruption are investigated and the mechanisms that have been implemented to prevent bribery. We received a response from a representative of the Companies and Intellectual Property Commission and are engaging with them in respect of the reports of corruption related to that entity.

### National Lotteries Commission

CW engaged in independent research and monitoring of various corruption allegations taking place within the National Lotteries Commission (NLC).

This has informed various correspondence with the minister of trade and industry and engagements around investigations into alleged gross maladministration, corruption and misconduct at the NLC. Using information gathered through investigations, CW was able to brief law enforcement agencies around various alleged corrupt activities as reported directly to us and elsewhere.

### Global Magnitsky

CW teamed up with Human Rights First and the Allard School of Law in British Columbia, Canada, to assist in drafting briefs for the submission to the US Department of Treasury, on South African individuals linked to corruption. If the briefs are accepted, it could lead to such individuals being sanctioned under the US Magnitsky Act, limiting their ability to travel and conduct commercial activities in the US. 'This legislation, while foreign and with extra-territorial reach, provides some basis upon which accountability can be extracted and remedial legal consequence for significant unlawful corrupt activities can take place.'

### Appointment of new CEO of the Independent Regulatory Board for Auditors

CW has been investigating the role auditing and consulting firms allegedly play in facilitating corruption. One of the important entities in ensuring accountability within this sector is the Independent Regulatory Board for Auditors, which appointed a new CEO earlier in 2020. After being made aware of possible irregularities in the appointment process and the role the new CEO allegedly played as a board member at Tongaat Hulett during a period of financial mismanagement, CW wrote to the minister of finance in May 2020 requesting that he review the appointment process. The appointed person has subsequently resigned.

# INVESTIGATIONS

## WHY IT MATTERS

Investigations are an effective way of exposing corruption, calling on government departments and law enforcement agencies for action against wrong-doing, and supporting whistle-blowers. Our investigations may result in greater awareness of certain matters of corruption, which leads to a wider investigation by authorities and possible action against perpetrators.

This work is often linked to particular campaigns or focus areas, such as a campaign to expose corruption in schools or local municipalities, or a focus on improving the criminal justice system. For instance, investigations played a prominent role in assisting Lawyers for Human Rights complete and launch a new report on corruption within the asylum-seeking process. The document relied on a previous CW report and updated those findings and recommendations. This culminated in a report launch in early September and a presentation by CW at the launch.

## OUR INTERVENTIONS

### Airports Company of South Africa

This case alleged acts of irregular procurement and corruption in the Airports Company of South Africa (Acsa). We conducted investigations and sent a letter to Acsa. We received a response confirming that the company will conduct their investigation into the allegations and will send us a report once the investigation is completed.

### Eastern Cape Department of Education

The case involved the alleged corruption in procurement perpetuated by a service provider at the Eastern Cape Department of Education. Following the investigations, the department was approached and confirmed in writing that they will conduct an internal investigation and provide us with feedback once the investigation is complete. An e-mail from the chief director for supply chain management at the department confirmed that an internal investigation had started.

### Northern Cape

Following the proposed collaboration between ourselves and the Northern Cape premier's office, we conducted a preliminary investigation on all Northern Cape cases reported between 2018 and 2020, and selected a few more relevant cases for an in-depth. We remain in regular contact with the anti-corruption unit within the premier's office, to whom we have submitted a draft memorandum of understanding.

### TERS

We received numerous complaints mostly from disgruntled employees around the administration of the Temporary Employment Relief Scheme administered by the Department of Labour. Allegations of non-payment, maladministration and corruption have been followed up and been the subject of analysis to determine trends and patterns. Matters involving alleged criminality have been referred to law enforcement.



# PROCUREMENT WATCH

## WHY IT MATTERS

The final quarter of 2020 saw the launch of Procurement Watch, a new project which has been developing conceptually throughout the year, and is linked to monitoring public procurement – the single largest corruption risk<sup>6</sup>, particularly in developing countries, according to the OECD.

In South Africa, billions in taxpayers' money have been lost through deviations from accepted supply chain management rules and expansions of contracts. The state capture commission has repeatedly heard how these procurement practices in particular have been abused.

## OUR INTERVENTIONS

The **Procurement Watch** website, which is under construction, will bear a section containing tools, analysis, and resources that activists and CW's legal and investigative team can make use of for procurement monitoring. Under resources, the civil society sector will find information that helps with understanding public procurement. The tools section will make deviations, expansions of contracts, and the restricted suppliers list searchable.

By putting this procurement data into a readily searchable and understandable format, Procurement Watch will contribute to curtailing irregular and unlawful procurement. Ultimately the aim is to improve spend of public finances through proactively monitoring procurement and contracting.

The initial stage of the project assessed all of National Treasury's instruction notes for emergency procurement relating to Covid-19, and resulted in a letter to the treasury which focused on our concerns regarding the lack of legal certainty and the lack of transparency regarding emergency procurement regulations and notices.

**Development of Procurement Watch is on track.**





# ZONDO COMMISSION: WHAT DOES TOMORROW HOLD



This year Deputy Chief Justice Raymond Zondo wraps up the work of his commission looking into allegations of state capture. It's been a monumental assignment that has had support from civil society and some elements within government. But it has also been fraught with loud criticism for what is deemed an aided political purge of former president Jacob Zuma and his allies.

Zondo has been accused of allowing Zuma's political opponents the platform to lynch him for crimes he continues to deny happened under his watch or with his blessing. With the Constitutional Court coming into the fray, along with a North Gauteng High Court application seeking Zondo's recusal, it will no doubt be a while before South Africa puts the Zondo vs Zuma battle behind it.

Former deputy minister of finance Mcebisi Jonas appealed to the commission during an appearance in 2019 to beware not to "Zumarise" state capture and think it was only and always about the former president. Whether or not the evidence will point to him being its mastermind or not remains to be seen in the report expected from Zondo in or around June, thanks to the high court granting a three-month extension of the commission's life span.

Our work around the commission has also continued without fail. As in 2018 and 2019, we continued to provide a regular news update on the proceedings in 2020. In fact, the only break we took was when the commission itself went on a three-month break in March in response to the announcement of a hard lockdown. When it resumed in June, it was mostly to hear the responding evidence of many of the high-profile implicated people against whom allegations have been made.

The destruction of state-owned entities (SOEs) – including Eskom, Denel, South African Airways (SAA) and the Passenger Rail Agency of South Africa – took up most of the commission's attention.

Interference in the running of SOEs by both their boards and sector political heads has emerged as a pattern that may lead to Zondo making recommendations for a review of appointment procedures for board members.

Equally, the improper use of the ANC's cadre deployment programme – run by a committee within the party – has been highlighted on a number of occasions.

The same goes for the party's role in Parliament and whether or not it abuses its majority position to influence big policy or regulatory decisions in the running of government. Zondo heard evidence from academic scholars and civil society representatives including our executive director David Lewis, who spoke on the need to streamline the protocols that govern the appointment of leaders of government institutions, particularly those in the regulatory space.

To take the conversation further, we launched **Zondo Unpacked: A Corruption Watch Podcast** in January 2021, after months of planning and coaching throughout 2020. To date it has expanded on discussions relating to evidence heard by the commission, but future episodes will also venture into the implications of such evidence, what Zondo's powers have meant, and how the commission is likely to change the general governance landscape going forward. With the podcast, we hope to reach an audience that is looking for insightful conversation on the topics that interest Corruption Watch and its followers, such as the quest for good governance, open and transparent appointments, and solutions for strengthening public procurement.

We remain committed to following the work of the commission, even beyond the end of its public hearings and the formulation of its findings in due course.

**With regard to how President Cyril Ramaphosa manages the release of the report, we would support an open process that takes the principle of public confidence and participation, into consideration.**

**This ties in fittingly with the work we did during 2020 – and continue to do – in advocating for transparency and public participation in vital government processes such as procurement and high-level recruitment.**



# PUBLIC FUNDRAISING

The socio-economic turmoil caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, coupled with increased levels of uncertainty, effectively meant deferring our public fundraising campaigns planned for the year. We took a step back to reset and to rethink what fundraising during the pandemic would entail and how our work had been impacted as a result. The reality on the ground was that while the coronavirus brought the whole world to a standstill, nothing seemed to stop the corrupt from looting and plundering the much-needed resources.

While our public fundraising initiatives were largely put on hold in 2020, we are now intensifying our efforts to mobilise communities, and seeking interventions to ensure that the perpetrators of corruption are brought to book.

## #GIFT4IMPACT

Therefore, **we are calling on the public to join our peer2peer fundraising campaign, #gift4impact.**

This is an initiative that allows supporters to celebrate their birthdays by activating their networks to donate to Corruption Watch on their special day. The idea is to ask friends and family members to forgo birthday gifts and instead make contributions towards our work. By doing so they will be "gifting for impact", meaning their gifts will enable us to make significant strides in the fight against corruption, including tackling the complaints of over 30 000 whistle-blowers, thus making an even greater impact.



## HOW TO GET STARTED?

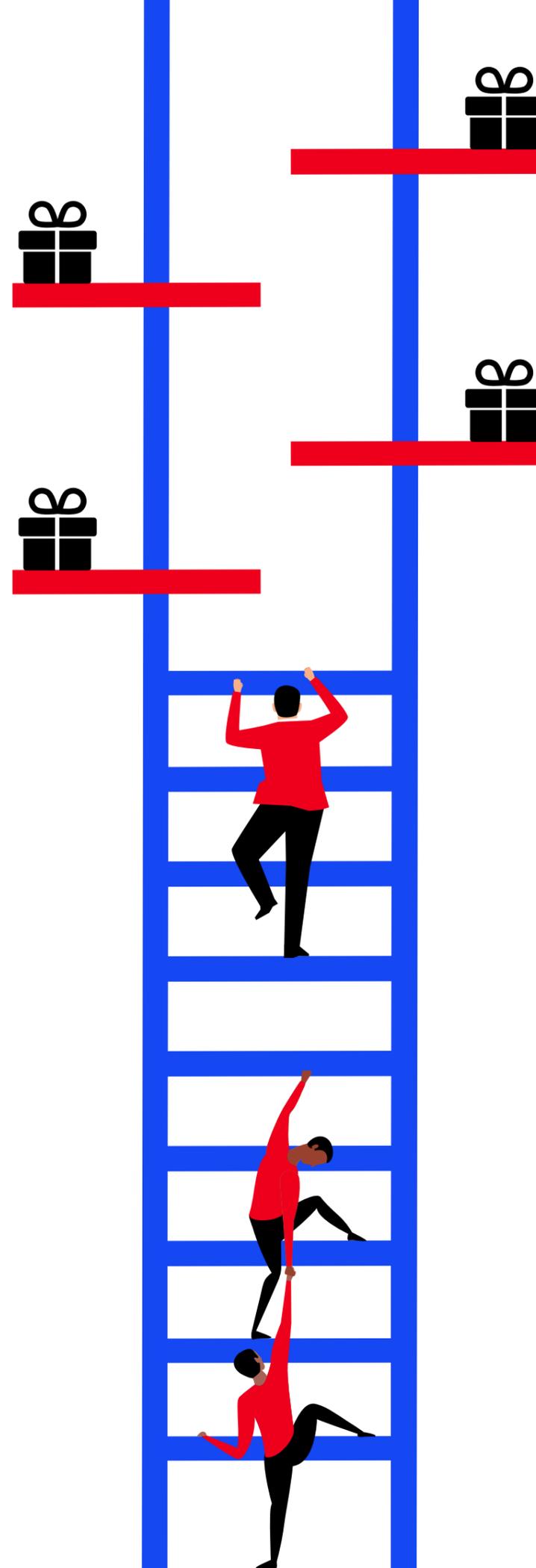
Our supporters can dedicate their birthdays to Corruption Watch by setting up a fundraising page on GivenGain to support our **#Gift4Impact campaign**. They can also decide on the fundraising goal that they would like to reach.

Alternatively, we can assist with generating fundraising links that supporters can circulate within their circles to solicit donations: [patience@corruptionwatch.org.za](mailto:patience@corruptionwatch.org.za).

The #Gift4Impact campaign also offers corporations or entities an opportunity to pledge their support for our anti-corruption efforts by donating a 'birthday fund' to celebrate their anniversary.

## BANK DETAILS

Account holder: Corruption Watch (RF) NPC  
 Bank: Standard Bank  
 Type: Savings account  
 Account number: 00 483 4747  
 Branch: 004305  
 Branch name: Rosebank  
 SWIFT address: SBZA ZA JJ



We are looking forward to the upcoming launch of our major donor programme which is aimed at sustaining and strengthening our flagship campaigns. The programme will consist of a unique community of individuals willing to get involved and invest in our anti-corruption efforts.

At Corruption Watch we believe in empowering communities to achieve long-lasting impact in the fight against corruption. Our major donor campaign will support our new online policing tool, **Veza**, which promotes transparency, public participation and accountability in the South African Police Service. This programme will also benefit other areas of focus including corruption in the health sector.

Lastly, our heartfelt gratitude goes to our most loyal donors who continually made contributions to further our work in the midst of enormous challenges.

We also pay homage to all our supporters who are going through socio-economic difficulties at the moment but have made contributions towards our work in the past.

**FROM ALL OF US HERE  
AT CORRUPTION WATCH,**

**THANK YOU!**



# INTERNATIONAL ANTI-CORRUPTION DAY 2020

Our parent organisation, Transparency International, made a good point when it asked:

**“AFTER A YEAR OF GREAT TUMULT, THERE APPEARS TO BE LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL, BUT HOW CAN WE ENSURE A JUST AND FAIR RECOVERY FROM THE [COVID-19] CRISIS?”**

This was the question asked of us – and by us – on International Anti-Corruption Day (IACD), marked around the world on 9 December each year, held in 2020 under the theme **Recover with Integrity**. It refers to the fact that inclusive Covid-19 recovery can only be achieved with integrity, where nobody is left out and everyone benefits equally. To achieve that, we must tackle corruption with even greater effort.

On 9 December in South Africa, Corruption Watch released **Our Future is not for Sale**, a report focused on the country's youth, highlighting their vulnerability to corruption, their exclusion from economic opportunities, and their dwindling chances of rising above the devastation that Covid-19 has wrought.

The report is discussed elsewhere in this document.

The organisation also took to the streets again as part of its activism work on that day, commissioning graffiti artist Mars to paint a vibrant, colourful anti-corruption mural on the corner of Jan Smuts Avenue and Empire Road – on one of the city's busiest intersections, and a prime spot for painting messages on a large scale.

IACD was set up by the UN to raise awareness of the devastating impact of corruption, and to look back on the year and assess progress in the fight to eradicate the scourge.



# RECOVER WITH INTEGRITY #IACD2020

# BOARD MEMBERS

Corruption Watch had eight sitting board members at the start of 2020, but seven upon the departure of Adila Hassim in March 2020. They help to steer the course of our work and provide valuable insight and experience across a range of sectors in which they operate. They help to ensure that all legal requirements are met, that workplace policies and governance issues are observed, that the financial health of the organisation is intact, and that the strategic direction of the organisation addresses the needs of our society.



**MAVUSO MSIMANG**  
CHAIRPERSON

Msimang is the former CEO of the Oliver and Adelaide Tambo Foundation, and also previously served as the director-general of the national Home Affairs department and CEO of SANParks. He sits on the board of WWF South Africa.

His non-executive board directorships include Harmony Gold, the African Parks Network and the Peace Parks Foundation, and he is a former chairperson of the iSimangaliso Wetland Park, a world heritage site.



**ADILA HASSIM**  
ADVOCATE AND  
JUNIOR COUNSEL AT  
THULAMELA CHAMBERS

Adila Hassim is an advocate and a founding member of Corruption Watch. She is currently junior counsel at Thulamela Chambers. Hassim earned a BA and LLB from the University of Natal. After completing her degrees, she later earned an LLM from the Saint Louis University School of Law in the US, and a JSD, or doctorate in law, cum laude from the University of Notre Dame Law School. She is a member of the Johannesburg Bar and was admitted as an advocate of the High Court of South Africa in 2003. A prolific author, Hassim has been published in law journals, health journals and newspapers, and has co-authored books on human rights and health law. She is a member of the National Association of Democratic Lawyers and an honorary member of the Treatment Action Campaign (TAC). Note: Adila Hassim's resignation from the board was effective from 27 March 2020.



**DAVID LEWIS**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Lewis is the founder and executive director of Corruption Watch. He previously chaired the Competition Tribunal for a decade and was involved in the trade union movement, serving as the general secretary of the General Workers Union and national organiser of the Transport and General Workers Union.



**ALICE BROWN**  
INTERNATIONAL  
HUMAN RIGHTS  
ADVOCATE

Brown is an international human rights advocate and an expert on the use of the law for the public good. Her distinguished career has focused on civil rights litigation and social justice philanthropy, with an emphasis on institution building for NGOs.

Brown is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, a board member of Section27 and also a member of the advisory committees of the Wits Justice Project and of Lawyers Against Abuse. She is a former board member of Human Rights Watch, the Lawyers' Committee for Human Rights and the South Africa – United States Fulbright Commission, and an alumna of Common Purpose South Africa.



**MZUKIZI QOBO**  
AUTHOR, THOUGHT LEADER,  
POLITICAL RISK ANALYST  
AND PUBLIC SPEAKER

Dr Mzukizi Qobo advises organisations on mitigating political risks and help them to capture opportunities from regulation. He previously worked at the Department of Trade and Industry as chief director for trade policy, and drafted the current South African trade policy and strategy framework. Until recently he taught international political economy at the University of Pretoria, where he was deputy director at the Centre for the Study of Governance Innovation. He is a senior associate at Tutwa Consulting and a research associate affiliated with the Department of Political Sciences, University of Pretoria. He is a regular columnist for Business Day and appears regularly on domestic and international media. He obtained his PhD from the University of Warwick, UK MA from the University of Stellenbosch; and Bachelor of Arts from the University of Cape Town. Qobo is author of *The Fall of the ANC: What Next?* published by Pan Macmillan (Picador Africa).



**FIROZ CACHALIA**  
ADJUNCT PROFESSOR

Firoz Cachalia currently works as an adjunct professor at his alma mater, Wits University's School of Law. His extensive career in government and civil society included his service as a member of the executive council of the provincial Gauteng government from 2004 to 2011, first in the safety and security portfolio and later in the economic development portfolio. He would later head up the provincial government's planning commission between 2011 and 2012, the board of which he continues to sit on to date. Other boards on which Cachalia sits include the South African Reserve Bank, where he also chairs the board risk committee; Hlanganisa Institute of Development of Southern Africa; and the Helen Joseph Hospital. He is also a member of the Council for the Advancement of The South African Constitution. Cachalia was admitted as an attorney in 1993, and continued with his legal studies through Wits (LLM) and the University of Michigan in the United States. His first occupation was as researcher for the Centre for Applied Legal Studies in the early 1990s, following the completion of his legal articles.



**THABI LEOKA**  
ECONOMIC STRATEGIST

Dr Thabi Leoka is an economic strategist, currently working at Argon Asset Management. She has held top positions at Renaissance Capital, Standard Bank Corporate and Investing, Barclays Wealth, and Investec Asset Management – she was based in London for the latter post. She obtained her PhD and MSc in Economics from the London School of Economics, and also holds an MA in Economic Development and International Trade from Wits University, and a BA in Social Science from Wits University. Leoka is a regular columnist for Business Times in the Sunday Times, and for Money Management. In addition, she is an accomplished speaker and was an economic advisor to the Fees Commission as well as finance minister Nhlanhla Nene.



**GUGU MCLAREN-USHEWOKUNZE**  
SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION  
STRATEGIST

Gugu McLaren-Ushewokunze has over 12 years' experience in social and sustainable development. She holds a MSocSc in Gender Studies and BSocSc in Psychology and Gender Studies from the University of Cape Town, and has worked across sectors, including civil society, consulting and corporate, and in varying industries. Most of her career has been spent in the corporate sector, where she spearheaded the development and the implementation of sustainable development strategies. She spent six years at Discovery, where she supported the company's shared value business model. McLaren-Ushewokunze now leads the National Business Initiative's Social Transformation programme, where her responsibilities include developing and implementing the NBI's programme to engage business in driving social transformation, with the aim of addressing inequality and inequity.

# FUNDERS

 The David & Elaine Potter Foundation	 CLAUDE LEON FOUNDATION	SIGRID RAUSING TRUST	 AngloAmerican GROUP FOUNDATION
MARY OPPENHEIMER & DAUGHTERS FOUNDATION	 THE OPPENHEIMER MEMORIAL TRUST	 HEINRICH BÖLL STIFTUNG	 ANGLO GOLDASHANTI SOUTH AFRICA
 giz Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH	 FORD FOUNDATION	THE RAITH FOUNDATION	 PRIMEDIA
 TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL UK fighting corruption worldwide	 YELLOWWOODS	MILLENNIUM TRUST	 TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL the global coalition against corruption
 OPEN SOCIETY FOUNDATION FOR SOUTH AFRICA	 the ELMA group of foundations	 ODI	 Google Impact Challenge

Please be advised that this does not reflect all the funders of the work of Corruption Watch during 2020. Please access the full list of funders at <https://www.corruptionwatch.org.za/about-us/people/funders-partners/>.



**REPORT CORRUPTION**

**072 013 5569** 

**TAKE ACTION AND MAKE A DONATION**  
[corruptionwatch.org.za/donate](https://www.corruptionwatch.org.za/donate)

# 2020

## FROM CRISIS TO ACTION

### REPORT CORRUPTION ONLINE

Report an incident online  
on our website now.  
The communication is secured  
and your information will be  
treated with the outmost  
care and security.

[www.corruptionwatch.org.za](http://www.corruptionwatch.org.za)

### REPORT CORRUPTION VIA WHATSAPP

**072 013 5569**

### THE CORRUPTION WATCH OFFICE

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watch** 