2021 ANALYSIS OF CORRUPTION TRENDS (ACT)
DEDICATED TO BABITA DEOKARAN AND THE THOUSANDS OF WHISTLE-BLOWERS WHO RISK THEIR LIVES DAILY IN THEIR PURSUIT FOR A CORRUPTION-FREE SOCIETY.

The 2021 edition of the Analysis of Corruption Trends (ACT) Report is the fifth in a series published by Corruption Watch, which highlights whistle-blower complaints received by the organisation in the first six months of the year. The purpose of this publication is to present the trends, patterns and hotspots of corruption in South Africa, based on crowd-sourced whistle-blower claims.

In the first half of 2021, 1,964 whistle-blowers approached Corruption Watch to report acts of corruption. Some of the key findings include:

- Most Covid-19 related complaints received tell of compliance issues in the temporary employment relief scheme (TERS), followed by procurement corruption in the health and education sectors, and corruption in relation to the distribution of food parcels.
- The majority of complaints stemmed from the Eastern Cape (42%), followed by the North-West (10%), KwaZulu-Natal (9%), and the Western Cape (7%).
- The environment has become even more hostile towards whistle-blowers who continue to face threats to their lives and livelihoods. At the same time, those in positions of power suffer minimal consequences for their involvement in corruption. South Africa is severely underperforming in its fight against corruption, and until we see real commitments from all sectors of society to address this problem, the patterns of abuse and impunity will largely remain the same.
**Corruption Hotspots**

Sectors relating to policing, responses to the Covid-19 pandemic, and the basic education sector emerged as hotspots for corruption in the first half of 2021.

**Institutional Location**

Most reports received relate to corruption involving the private sector, followed by corruption located in all three tiers of government.

**Types of Corruption**

The most common types of corruption reported in the first half of 2021 include issues related to maladministration, abuse of authority, and procurement corruption.
SECTORAL HOTSPOTS
POLICING

POLICE CORRUPTION IS STILL THE NUMBER ONE
TYPE OF CORRUPTION EXPERIENCED BY
WHISTLE-BLOWERS

With the majority reporting an:

- 37% Abuse of Authority
- 34% Dereliction of Duty
- 22% Bribery

Most policing complaints emanate from:

- 46% Gauteng
- 16% Western Cape
**SECTORAL HOTSPOTS**

**SCHOOLS**

DURING THIS PERIOD, A NUMBER OF WHISTLE-BLOWERS IN GAUTENG, THE EASTERN CAPE AND LIMPOPO REPORTED ALLEGED CORRUPTION IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

- **37%** GAUTENG
- **11%** LIMPOPO
- **15%** EASTERN CAPE

The majority noted issues relating to:

- **23%** ABUSE OF AUTHORITY
- **22%** IRREGULARITIES IN EMPLOYMENT PROCESS
- **21%** EMBEZZLEMENT

**REPORTS RECEIVED**

- **37%** GAUTENG
- **11%** LIMPOPO
- **8%** MPUMALANGA
- **8%** KwaZULU-NATAL
- **2%** NORTHERN CAPE
- **2%** FREE STATE
- **2%** WESTERN CAPE
- **15%** EASTERN CAPE
- **8%** UNKNOWN

**TYPES OF CORRUPTION**

- **6%** ABUSE OF GOVERNMENT RESOURCES
- **8%** MISMANAGEMENT OF FUNDS
- **10%** MALADMINISTRATION
- **12%** PROCUREMENT CORRUPTION
- **13%** EMPLOYMENT CORRUPTION
- **17%** EMBEZZLEMENT OF FUNDS
- **21%** ABUSE OF AUTHORITY
SECTORAL HOTSPOTS
HOUSING

IN RELATION TO CORRUPTION IN THE PUBLIC HOUSING SECTOR, GAUTENG AND THE WESTERN CAPE EMERGE AS HOTSPOTS

REPORTS RECEIVED

Types of Corruption

- Failure to act: 3%
- Embezzlement: 3%
- Theft of public resources: 5%
- Procurement corruption: 5%
- Maladministration: 6%
- Bribery: 8%
- Abuse of authority: 16%
- Fraud: 21%
- Irregularities in RDP housing allocation: 23%

With most whistle-blowers highlighting:

- RDP houses: 23%
- Fraud: 21%
- Abuse of authority: 16%

REPORT CORRUPTION
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SECTORAL HOTSPOTS
COVID-19 RELATED CORRUPTION

IN RELATION TO GOVERNMENT’S RESPONSE TO THE
CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC, THE MAJORITY OF CORRUPTION
REPORTSSTEMMED FROM

WITH A SIGNIFICANT NUMBER EMANATING FROM

TYPES OF CORRUPTION
Most allegations referred to issues of maladministration, irregularities in procurement processes, and abuse of authority.

Fifteen percent of these complaints were located in the health sector, followed by the basic education sector (13%). During this reporting period, whistle-blowers continued to complain about being asked for money in order to access food parcels, as well as food parcels being stolen or being given in exchange for patronage.

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SECTORAL HOTSPOTS

TERS AND COVID RELIEF

IN RELATION TO THIS SECTOR, MOST CORRUPTION ALLEGATIONS EMERGED FROM

- 35% GAUTENG
- 13% EASTERN CAPE
- 13% WESTERN CAPE
- 12% KwaZULU-NATAL

REPORTERS MAINLY ALLEGED THAT THEIR EMPLOYERS WERE ABUSING THE TERS GRANTS, BY EITHER PARTIALLY PAYING THEM OR NOT PAYING THEM AT ALL.