

Executive Summary

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As is customary at this time of the year, Corruption Watch presents the findings of the reports of corruption that we received between 1 January and 30 June. Titled Analysis of Corruption Trends (ACT), this 2022 edition is the sixth such report.

We publish this data to highlight the intersection of corruption in the public and private sectors, the struggles faced by those advocating for anti-corruption practices and in particular, the hardships experienced by ordinary persons who blow the whistle on corruption in both sectors. Based on our working definition of corruption, the abuse of entrusted power for personal gain, we bring to your attention the most prevalent forms of corruption, and the hotspots and focus areas that are generally reported on.

So while some may use the annual release of these data trends to gauge where the country stands in relation to its fight against corruption, we maintain that the publication of the ACT report is about our collective understanding of the plight of public servants, professionals, the elderly, students, parents, patients, general labourers, and more vulnerable groups such as women, children and people living with disabilities.

This format differs from the barometer studies such as the Corruption Perceptions Index and Global Corruption Barometer (research studies conducted by our Transparency International secretariat) or the perceptions surveys that we have published over the last several years.

The ACT report is an experiential portrait of what is taking place in South African businesses, police services, government departments and agencies, schools, hospitals and clinics, and communities at large. It is based on the cases brought to the organisation by brave whistle-blowers, people who risk their lives and livelihoods to reveal the dodgy dealings of politicians, administrators, and businesspersons. We sympathise and empathise with our whistle-blowers, for the fight against the corrupt is laborious and fraught with danger.

Therefore, as you study the graphs enclosed herein and listen to the second ACT report podcast, consider not only the state of the country in terms of the grand or political corruption stories we hear of through media reporting, but also the happenings in your communities, work environments, and social circles. Think of the decrepit state of the roads and other poorly maintained infrastructure, think about the homeless and landless, think about the shortage of medication and equipment that is out of commission in health facilities, think about under-resourced schools. The list is indeed endless for being the most unequal society means that we are hitting the wrong markers and this is owed to corruption, incompetence and poor leadership.

In the 2022 edition of the ACT report, the main takeaways are that:

- Corruption remains central to the abuse of fundamental human rights,
- Corruption straddles the public and private sectors and in the period under review, 62% and 25% of corruption cases are attributed to each respectively, and
- Whistle-blowing comes at a high price in South Africa in the absence of improvements to the current whistle-blower protection mechanisms.

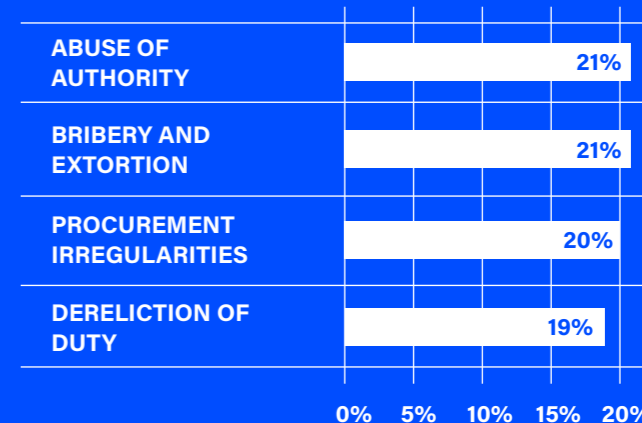
The recent Auditor-General report on the state of local municipalities speaks to the former of these points. We learn that the loss of billions of rands, the shortage of skills, and the lack of oversight means that for many communities, the provision of basic services is an ideal yet to be realised. Meanwhile, because of inadequate protections for whistle-blowers as well as lack of accountability, addressing serious corruption issues is challenging and corruption networks thrive, threatening democracy.



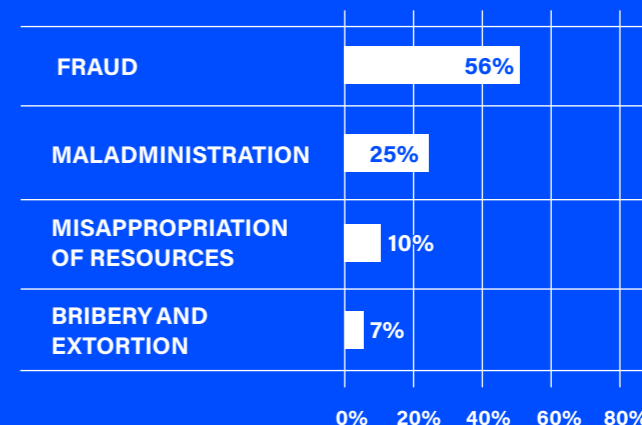
Across the board, the following types of corruption are prevalent:

- Fraud (which includes payment to ghost workers, and the falsification of documents in recruitment and procurement processes) counts for 35%;
- Abuse of authority (which includes the victimisation of whistle-blowers) counts for 17%;
- Maladministration (which includes the mismanagement of resources as well as wasteful and fruitless expenditure) counts for 17%;
- Bribery and extortion (which includes sextortion – the solicitation of sexual favours) counts for 16%; and
- Procurement irregularities (which includes allegations of kickbacks and flouting of processes) counts for 15%.

TYPES OF CORRUPTION (PUBLIC SECTOR)



TYPES OF CORRUPTION (PRIVATE SECTOR)



REPORT CORRUPTION

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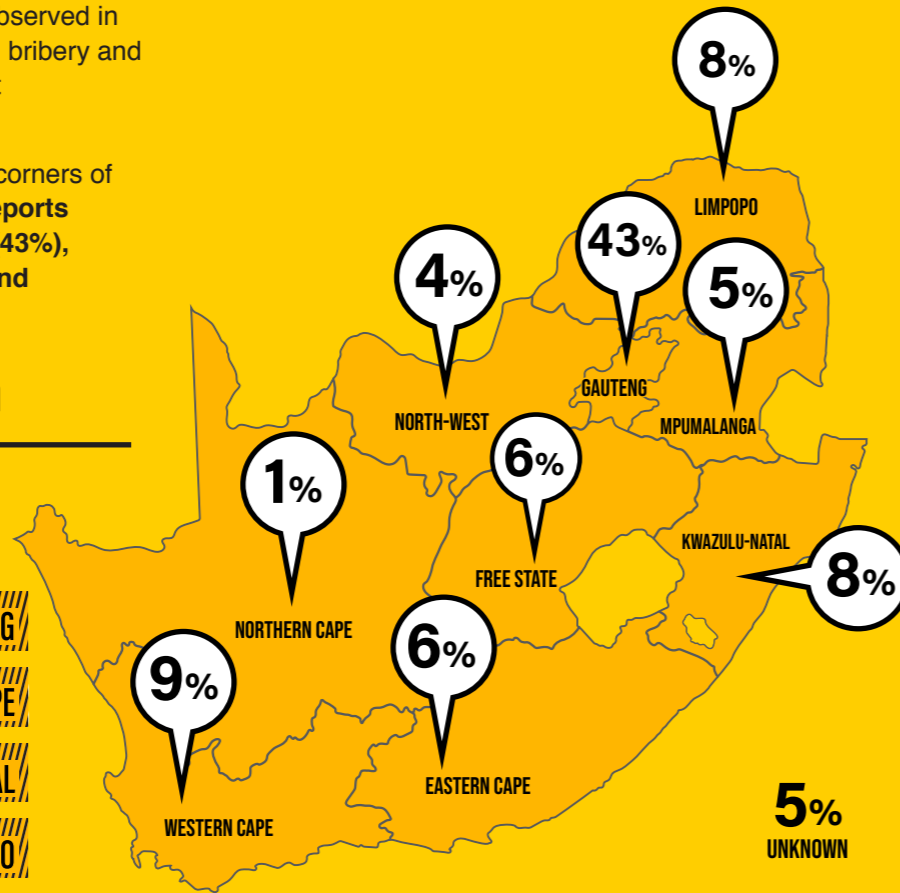


Whereas in the private sector the most commonly found corruption types are fraud (56%) and maladministration (25%), which relates more to compliance, the types of corruption trends observed in the public sector relate to abuse of authority, bribery and extortion, and procurement and employment irregularities.

Corruption allegations are received from all corners of the country, but more than two-thirds of reports emanate from four provinces – Gauteng (43%), Western Cape (9%), and KwaZulu-Natal and Limpopo with 8% apiece.

Provincial % Distribution

TOP FOUR



Focus Areas

The focus areas reported to us as problematic are important to our understanding of graft, and they assist us in concentrating our interventions. In both public and private sectors, the following areas are reportedly rampant with corruption:

Policing

Includes the South African Police Service, local police, and private security

COUNTS FOR **8%**



Education

Relates to incidents of corruption primarily in schools

COUNTS FOR **6%**



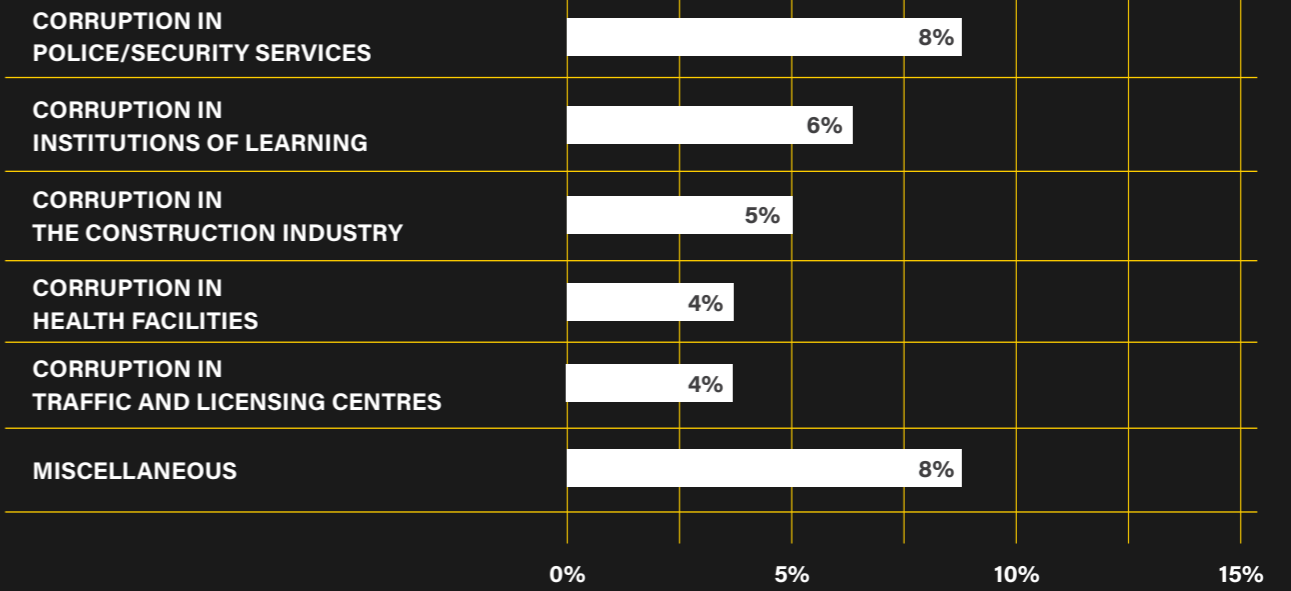
Construction

Involves acts of corruption in public works departments and infrastructure development companies

COUNTS FOR **5%**



TRENDING FOCUS AREAS



Individually, the focus areas most reported on in the public sector are

11%
POLICE

9%
EDUCATION

6%
STATE-OWNED ENTERPRISES

The corrupt practices hampering these areas range from abuse of authority and misappropriation of resources to procurement and employment irregularities.

Meanwhile, in the private sector, legal and financial firms count for 8% of corruption cases, and health providers and mining companies each count for 4% of incidents received. However, 28% of graft reports relate to an assortment of companies generally implicated in scrap metals illegal activity as well as fraudulent temporary employer-employee relief scheme claims.

Based on this account, a great deal more still needs to be done for corruption remains endemic in South Africa. Though at times we may feel overwhelmed by corruption in every facet of our lives, we cannot let up. Transparency, accountability, and good

governance are central principles that we need to keep in our sights at all times as we endeavour to build a corrupt-free society.

Let us take heart from the people who blow the whistle on wrongdoing every day. Their bravery should encourage us all to rally stridently against the corrupt as well as systemic practices that pose a threat to our vision of building a just, equal, and prosperous nation. Beyond the figures that we internalise, this report should encourage us to act against injustice, to act against inequality, and to act against corrupt practices.

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2012
2022

2022 Analysis of Corruption Trends (ACT) ACT Report Data

1 037

1 037 whistle-blower reports received since January 2022

This accounts for approximately 3% of the total complaints that Corruption Watch has received since its inception in 2012.

An average of **172** reports per month over the last 6 months

The vast majority of complaints (68%) are located in four provinces



These provinces should be treated as hotspots for monitoring corruption.

Corruption only reports:

62%

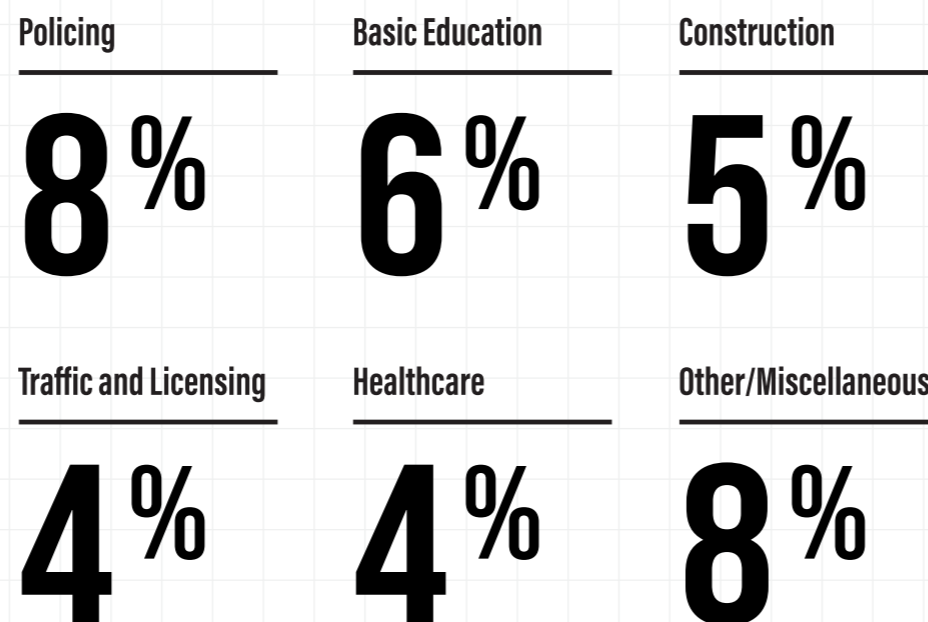
25%

of complaints are located in the public sector

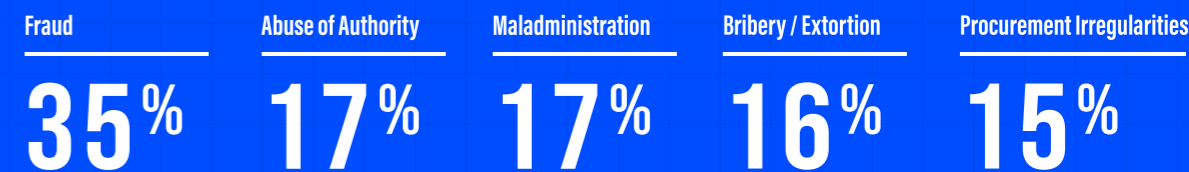
of complaints are located in the private sector

The remainder of the complaints are classified as 'unknown' or 'none'.

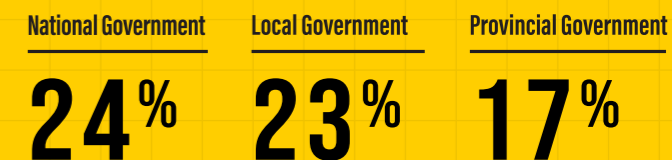
The sub-sectors from which most complaints emanated relate to the following:



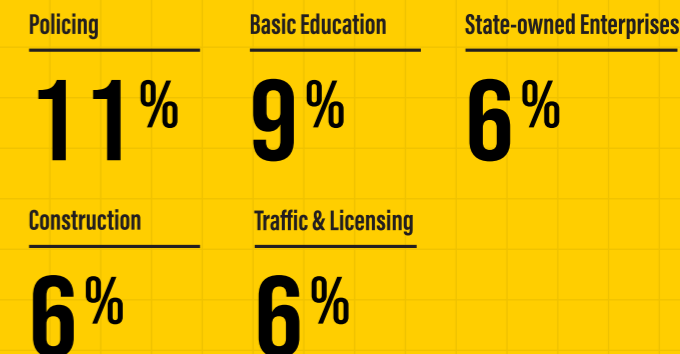
The most frequent types of corruption reported include:



In the public sector, the majority of complaints relate to corruption in:



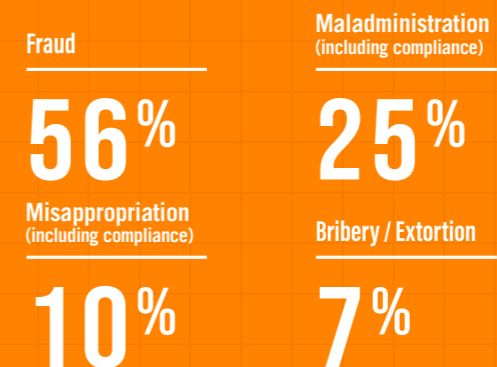
We received the most reports in the following public sector areas:



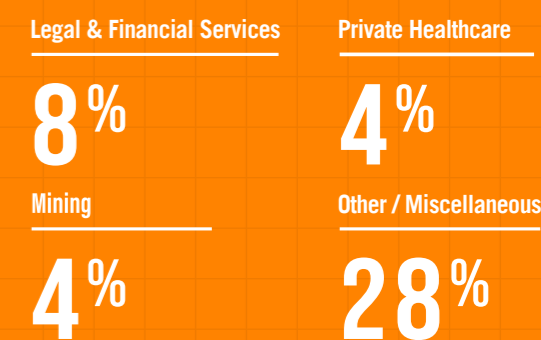
The most frequent types of corruption experienced in the public sector include:



In the private sector, the types of complaints most frequently received include:



In the private sector, the areas most associated with complaints include:

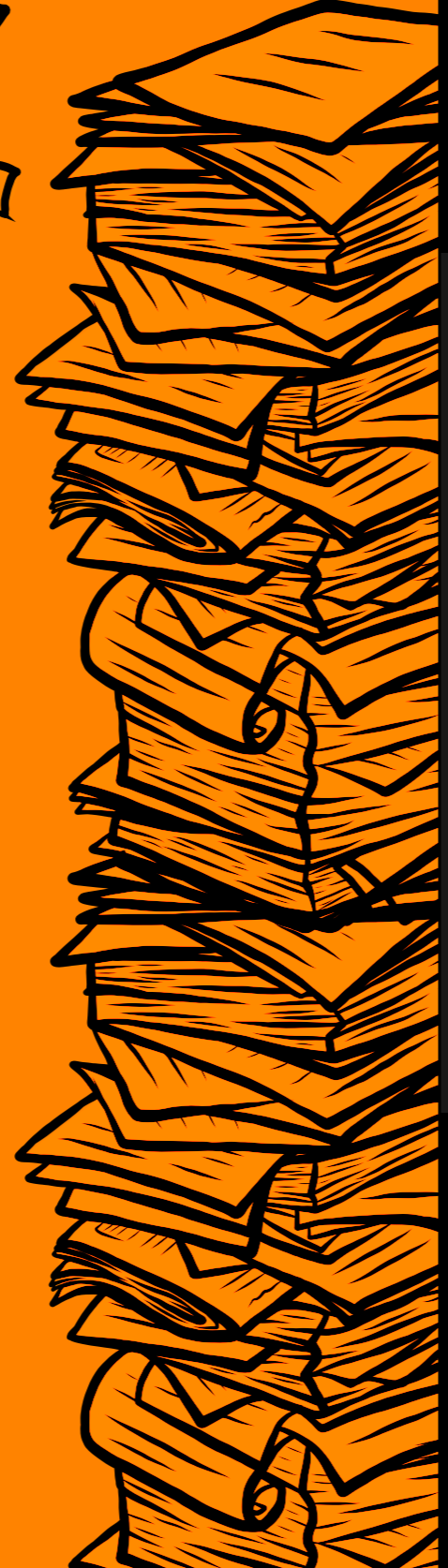
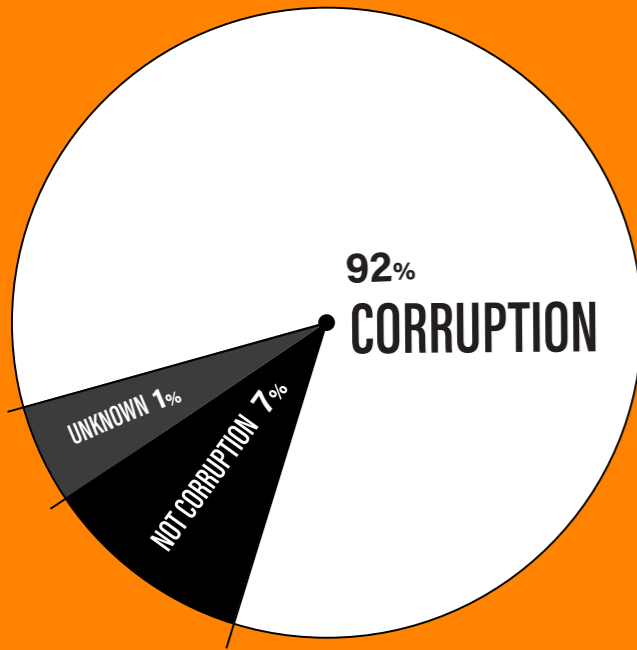


The top implicated municipalities in the complaints received are:

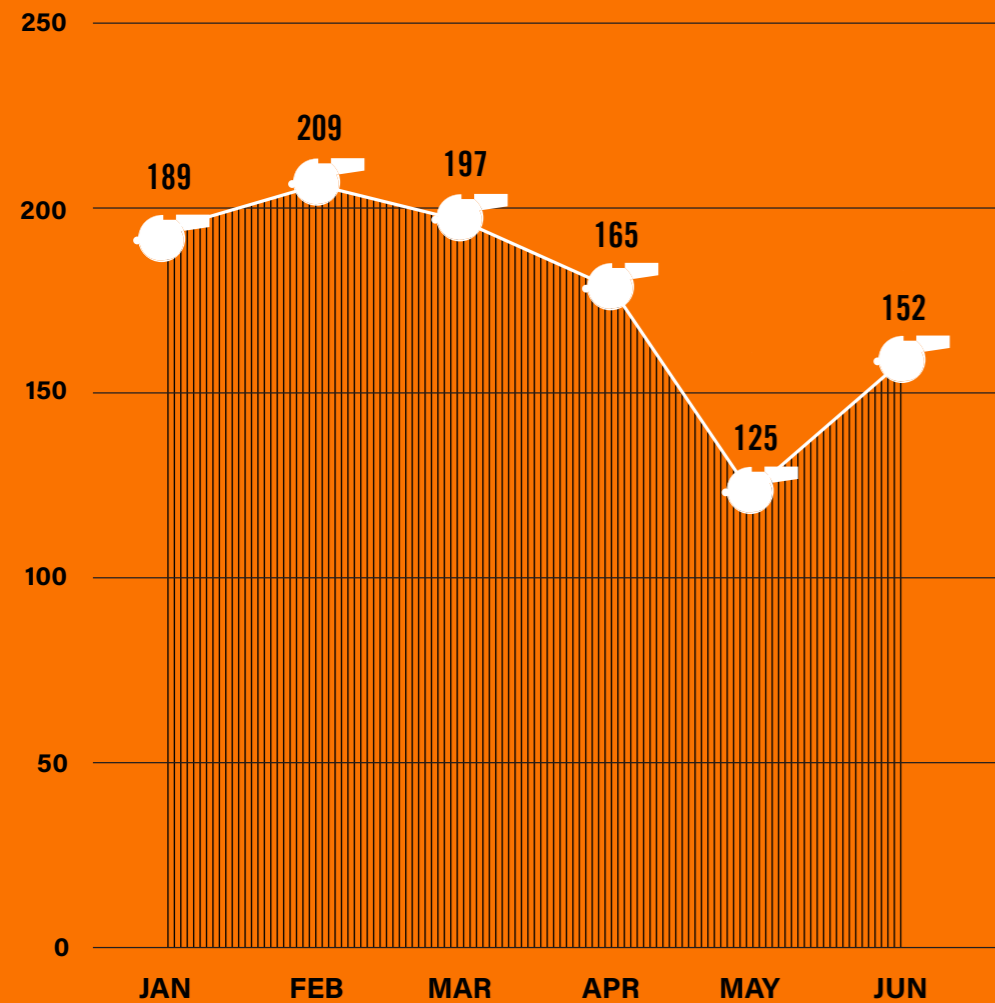


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ALLOCATION OF REPORTS

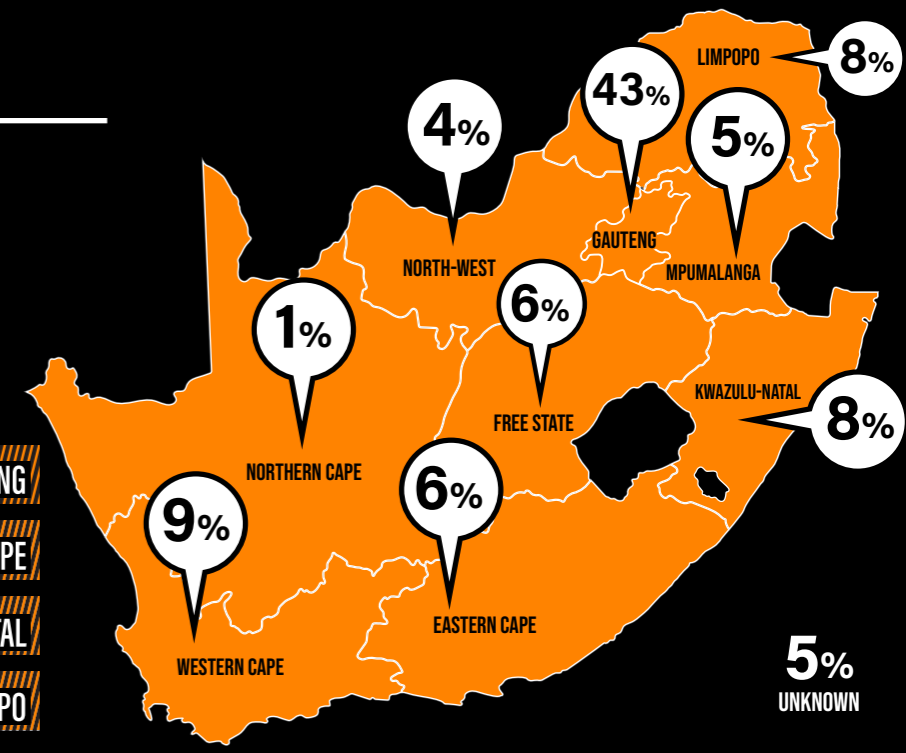


MONTHLY DISTRIBUTION OF REPORTS

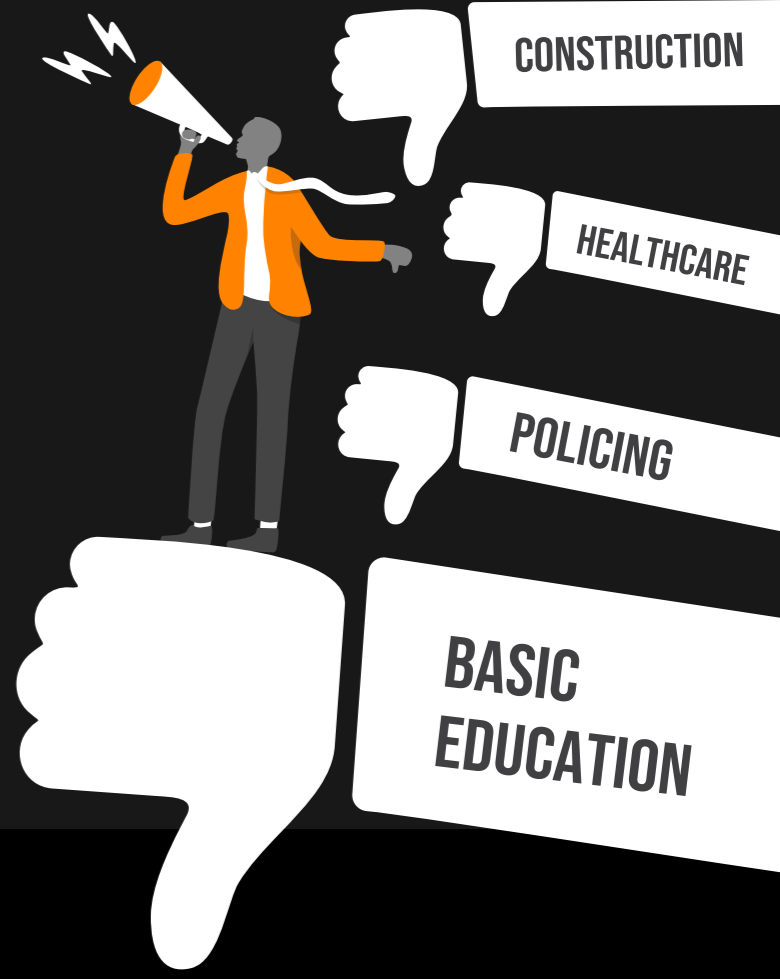
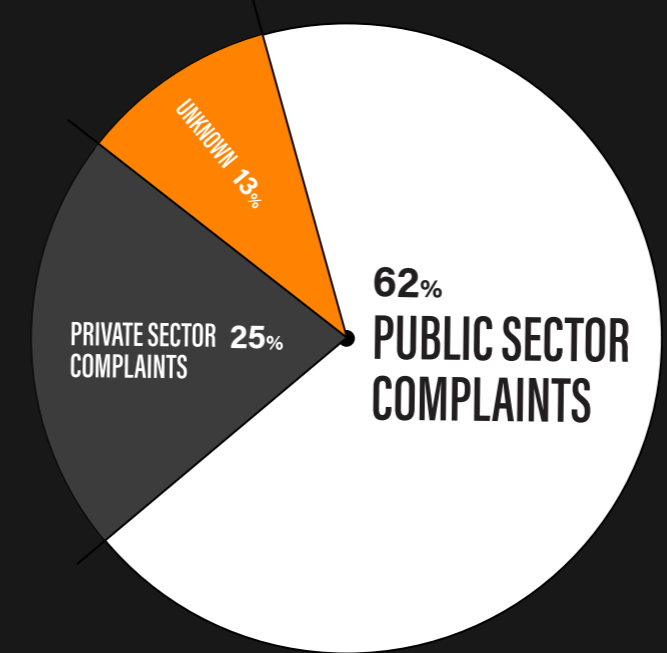


PROVINCIAL DISTRIBUTION OF REPORTS

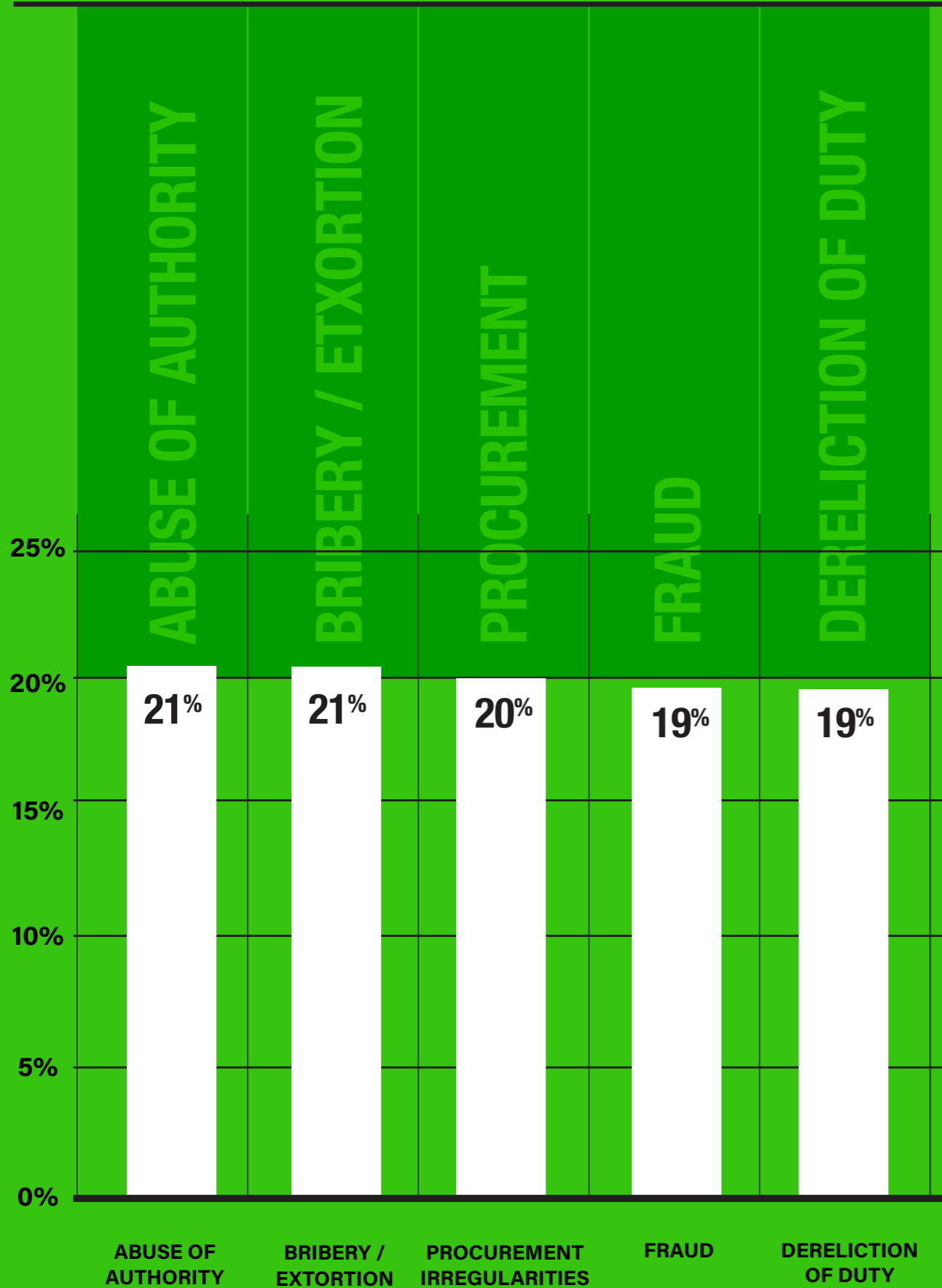
TOP FOUR



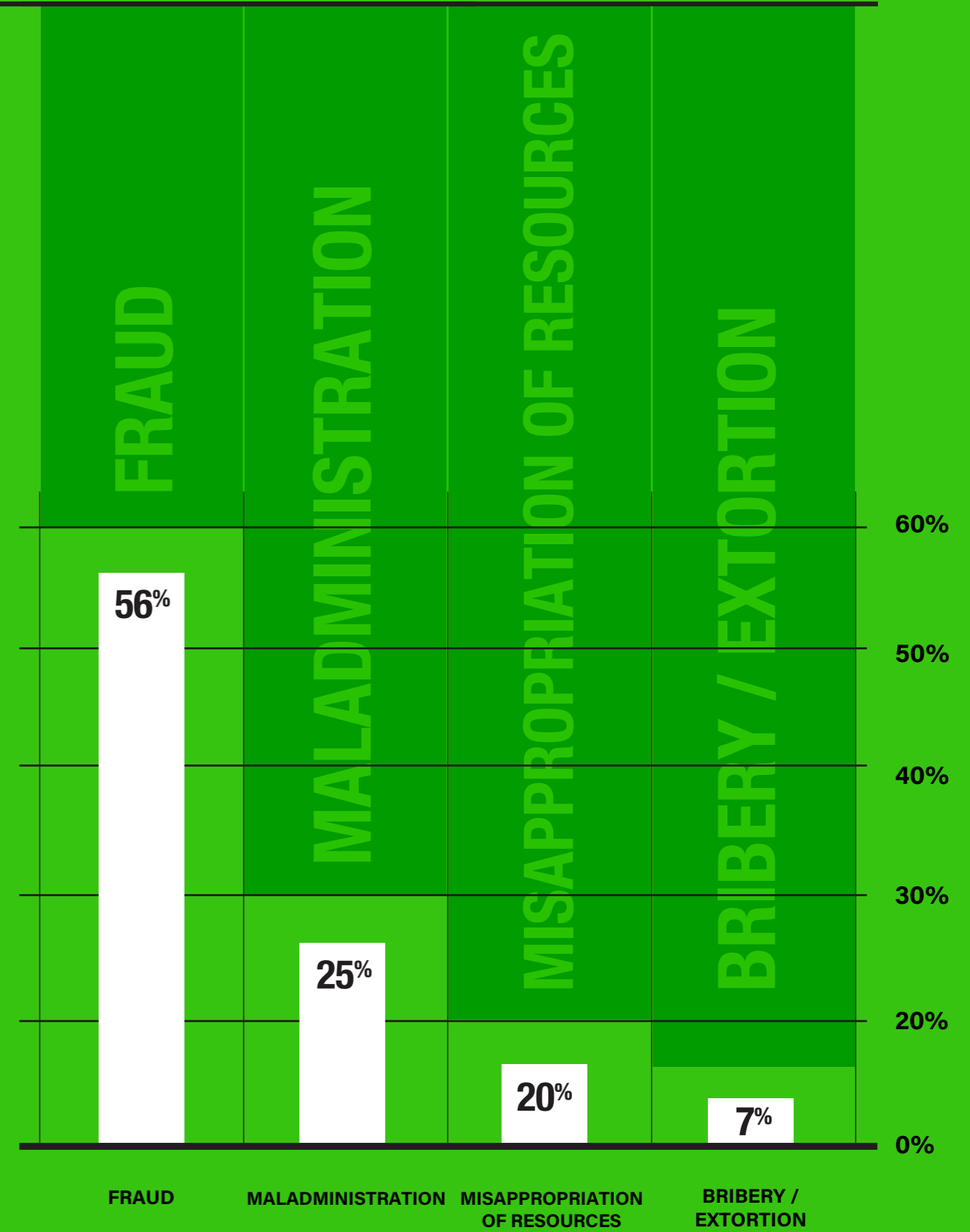
COMPLAINTS RELATING TO THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS



TOP FIVE TYPES OF CORRUPTION EXPERIENCED IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR

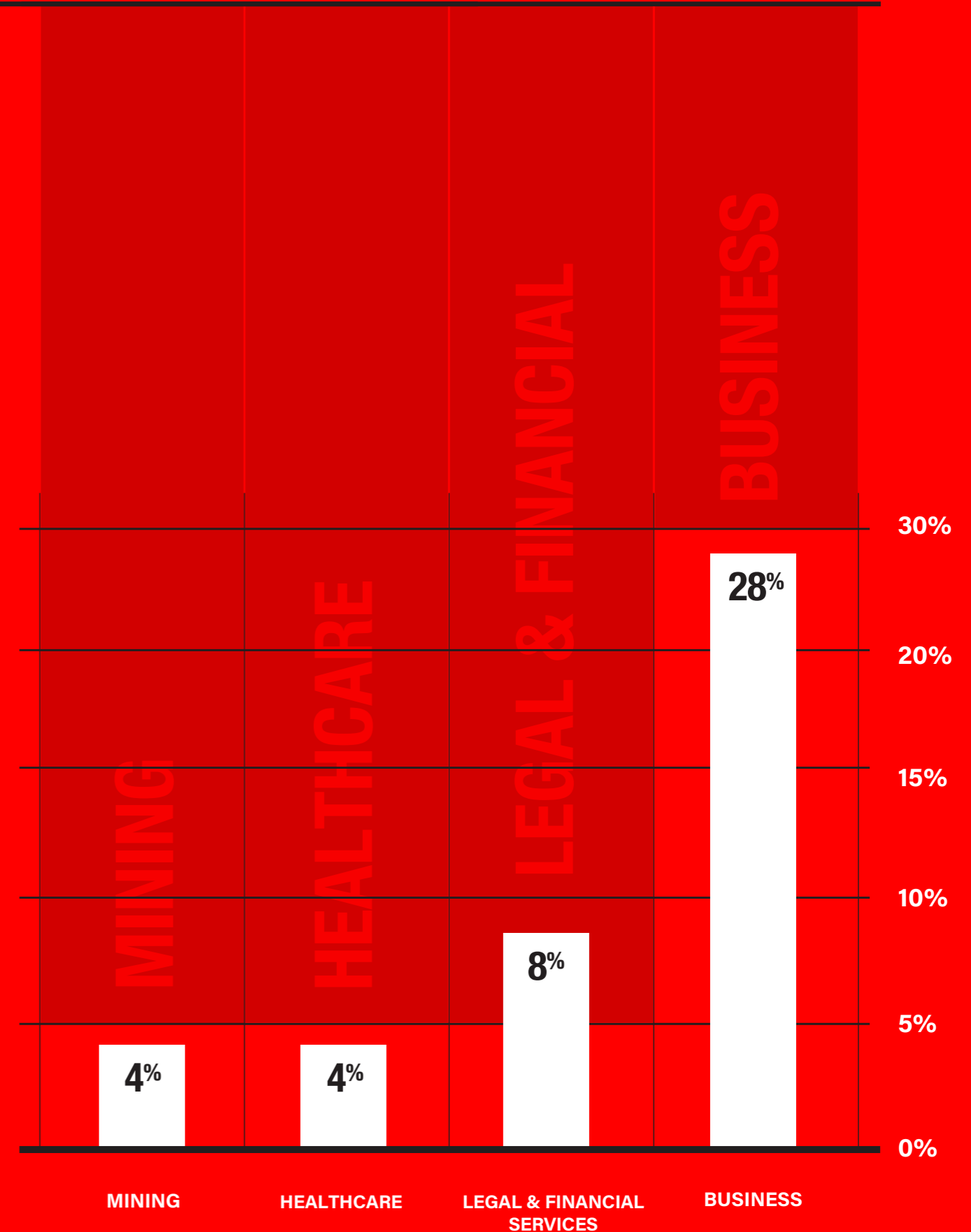
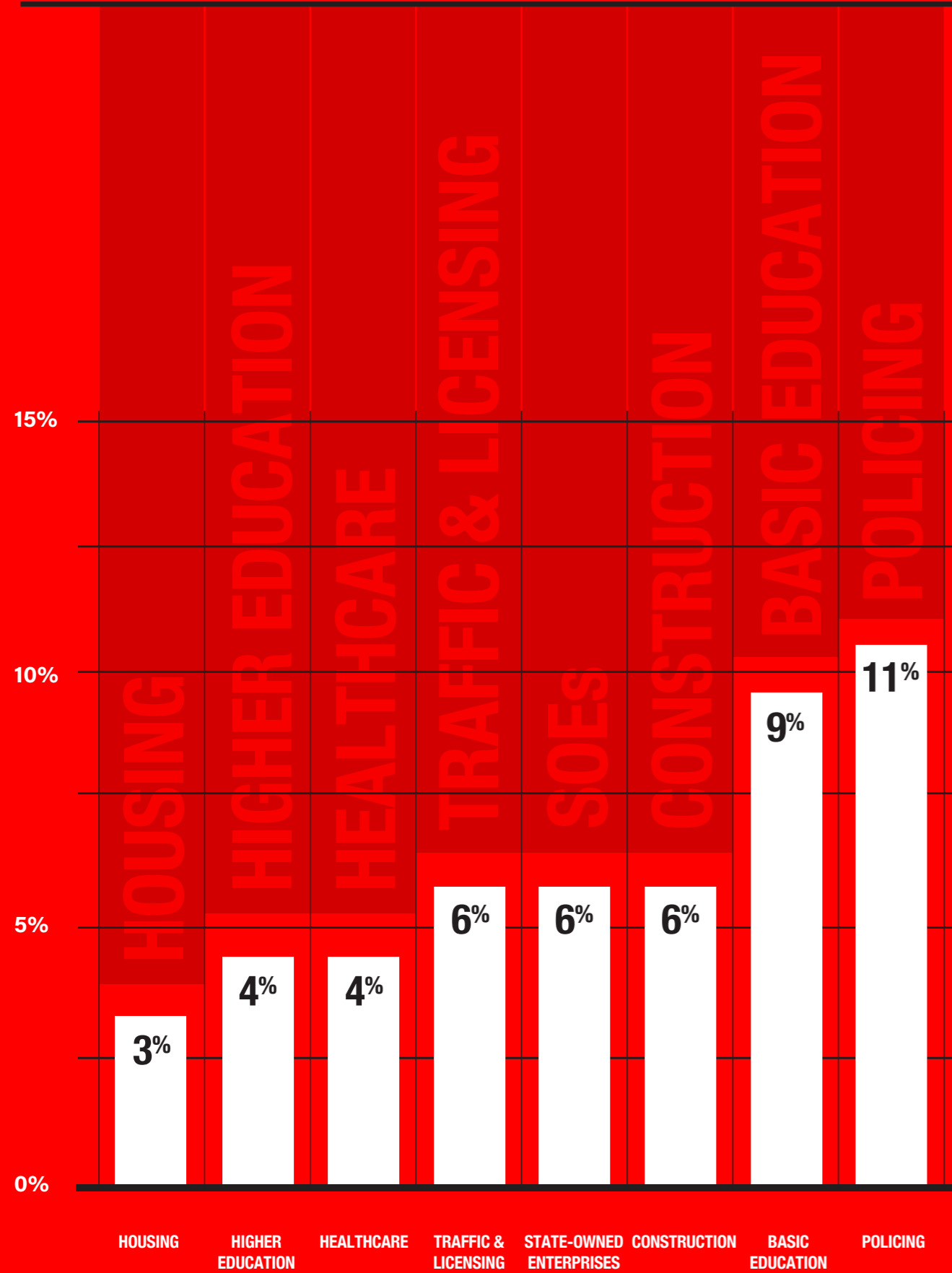


TYPES OF CORRUPTION EXPERIENCED IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR



HOTSPOTS FOR CORRUPTION IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR

HOTSPOTS FOR CORRUPTION IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR

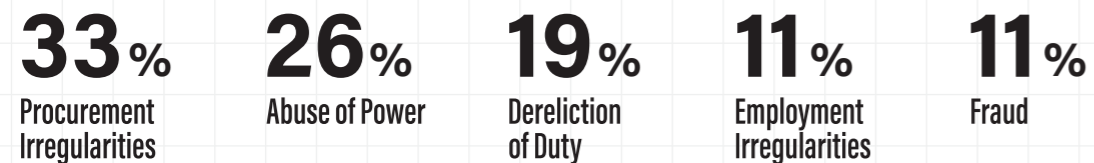


Analysis of the types of corruption experienced in the public sector

in individual provinces reveals the following trends:

EASTERN CAPE

Types of corruption reported



FREE STATE

Types of corruption reported



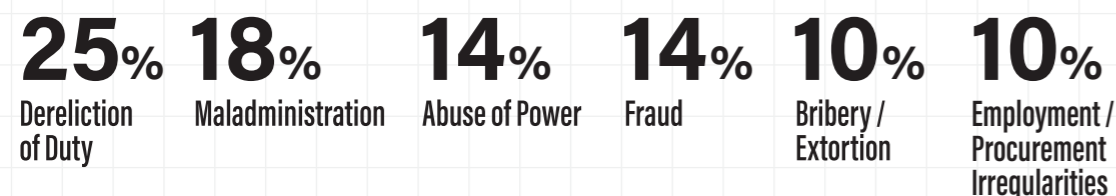
GAUTENG

Types of corruption reported



KWAZULU-NATAL

Types of corruption reported



LIMPOPO

Types of corruption reported



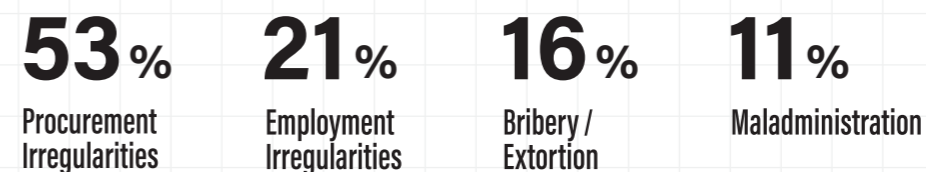
MPUMALANGA

Types of corruption reported



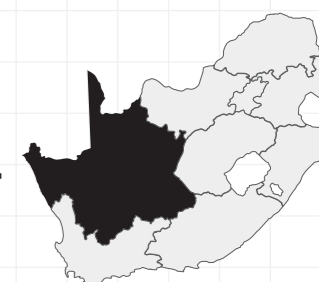
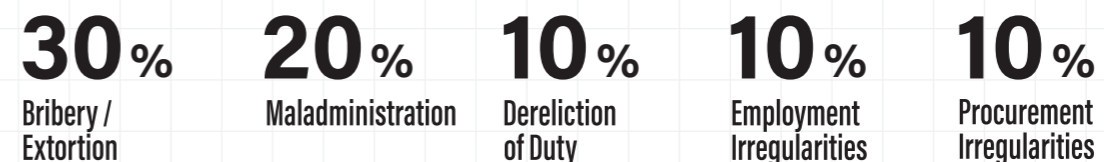
NORTHWEST

Types of corruption reported



NORTHERN CAPE

Types of corruption reported



WESTERN CAPE

Types of corruption reported



SECTORAL FOCUS

POLICING



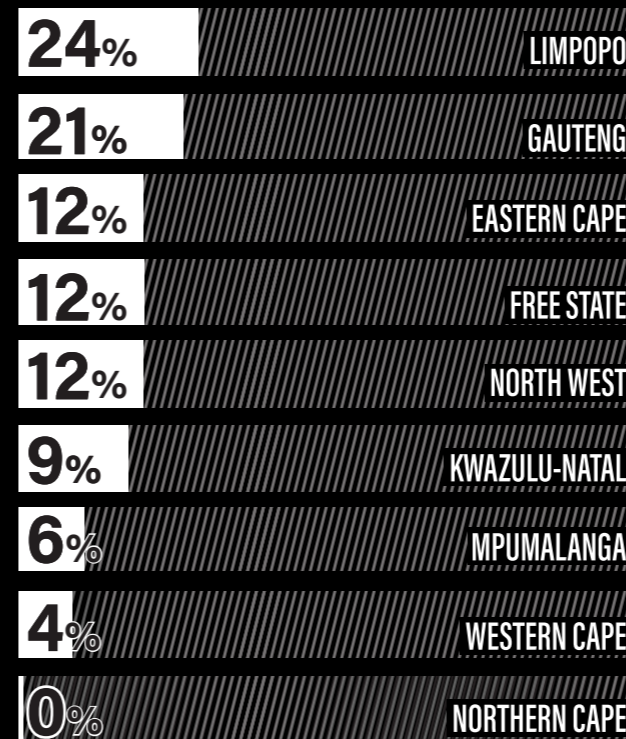
TRAFFIC AND LICENSING



BASIC EDUCATION



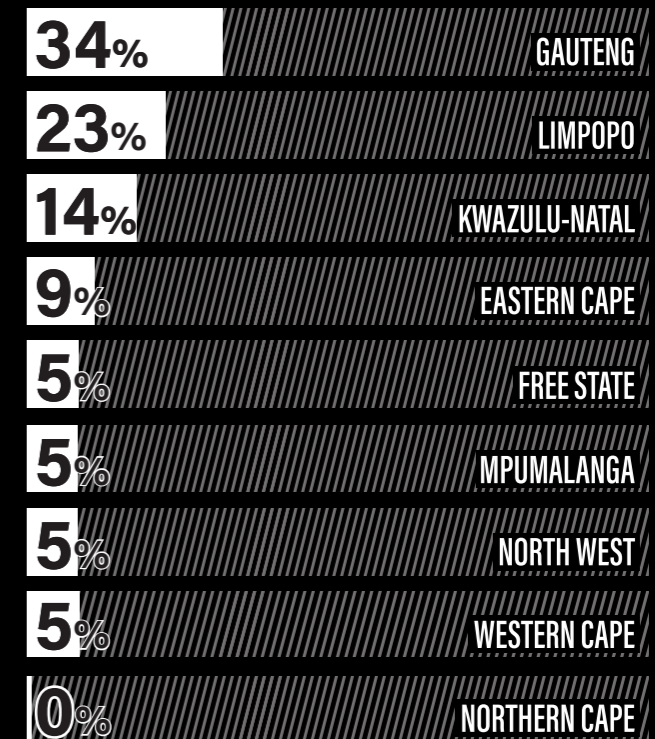
CONSTRUCTION



HEALTHCARE



HIGHER EDUCATION



Sub-sector corruption types

POLICING



SCHOOLS



TRAFFIC AND LICENSING



CONSTRUCTION



HEALTHCARE



HOUSING

