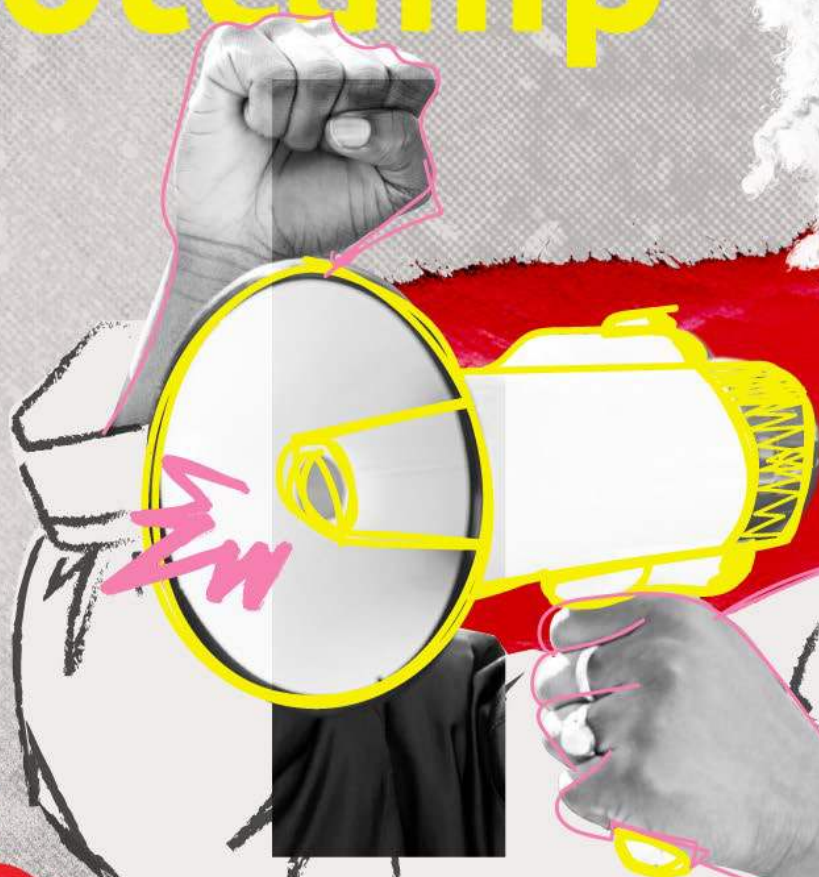


WORKSHOP REPORT
OF THE SECOND SAAC

CORRUPTION BUSTING Bootcamp

SAAC
STRENGTHENING
ACTION AGAINST
CORRUPTION

19-23 MAY 2025 | EAST LONDON, EASTERN CAPE



Funded by
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SOCIAL CHANGE
ASSISTANCE TRUST



TRANSPARENCY
INTERNATIONAL
the global coalition against corruption

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REPORT CREDITS

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GETTING STARTED

INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

Following the success of the first corruption busting bootcamp (CBB1), held in 2024 under the umbrella of the Strengthening Action Against Corruption (SAAC) project – a collaborative initiative between Corruption Watch (CW), the Social Change Assistance Trust (SCAT), and Transparency International (TI) – a second event took place from 19 to 23 May 2025.

The CBB brings together representatives from community-based organisations (CBOs) and community advice organisations (CAOs) identified by SCAT and CW as befitting to undertake awareness and advocacy campaigns in line with the project's goals and objectives, which are generally centred around demanding accountability and transparency from local government authorities in their respective areas. Because the organisations are rooted in these communities, they are best placed to invoke action on the ground in a manner that is organised and structured, to get service delivery-related accountability and transparency from local government authorities. Through the SAAC, they receive regular training and support to ensure consistency in the development of their campaigns.

While CBB1 had the purpose of introducing the CBOs and CAOs to the project and its objectives and to train them on how to achieve its goals, the second bootcamp (CBB2) touched base on the progress of their campaigns in the community.

There was a clear and palpable distinction between the two events in terms of how CBO and CAO leaders received information as well as how they expressed their roles in communities. Where many of them were initially wary and sceptical during CBB1 about their ability to deliver impactful work for the SAAC, the elevated confidence shown at the second bootcamp meant that they have now transitioned into leadership roles with clear strategies for how to mobilise their communities into forming organised structures that demand accountability safely and effectively.

During the reflections session that marked the opening of the workshop on day one, one of the leaders of the CBOs said: "One of the things I realised when I started this work is that I should not approach the community using the term 'corruption'. I decided to say the engagements were to discuss governance and leadership. If I had not done that, I would not have received much support." It was only once she had the attention of attendees at her events that she was able to lead the narrative of how good governance and leadership go together and why it was important for communities to appreciate the role of governance in the leadership of public sector structures. She encouraged other organisations to employ similar tactics to achieve the goal of getting communities to participate in promoting accountability and transparency in their local authorities.



Her testimony received much applause as it reflected a clear shift in the sense of community responsibility and confidence as far as participants are concerned. For the many who presented, garnering support from communities was not as difficult a task as they had initially expected, but one that simply required building trust and rapport over common concerns and then presenting the possible solutions for the changes needed by communities.

The more common concerns such as incomplete infrastructure projects like roads and buildings showed the need for such a community-led project like the SAAC that empowers communities to hold authority to account. Other areas that we found to need intervention included education, health, and social development. Furthermore, the workshop learned, so insightful were the engagements with communities over the last quarter of 2024 that several organisations raised climate change and lack of planning around it as one of their areas of deeper focus moving forward.

For some of the micro grantees who applied and wished for larger grants, the state of neglect of previously well-preserved ecological sites and the impact of severe weather patterns on infrastructure like schools and businesses showed the urgency with which climate-related service delivery requires attention. Indeed, just weeks after CBB2, several Eastern Cape regions were affected by devastating floods following torrential rains. These were marked by fatalities, loss of property, destruction of infrastructure, and other difficult outcomes, bringing into perspective the urgency for local and provincial authorities to facilitate effective strategies to mitigate against challenges brought on by climate change.

CBB2 facilitators did not falter in the educational and training aspect of the SAAC project. From day one of the workshop until closure, insights were

shared on advocacy work and the importance of community leaders equipping themselves with the necessary knowledge of the laws and policies that govern local government. This was done to further participants' understanding of the local government landscape and more importantly the accountability systems and mechanisms at the public's disposal to ensure that municipalities are as accountable as they should be.

The issue of whistle-blowing and the associated dangers did not go unaddressed either.

Joining the organisations was the first cohort of the SAAC-attached Youth Ambassadors for Accountability (YAFA) programme, that has a targeted approach. The YAFA members were themselves trained only five weeks prior, in a separate workshop also held in the Eastern Cape and spearheaded by SCAT, with CW providing a support role that involved media training.

The rationale behind combining the two groups for the second CBB was so that each could bring experiences drawn from their own efforts to a joint platform, for purposes of knowledge sharing and to receive feedback on the interventions that they have to date embarked on.

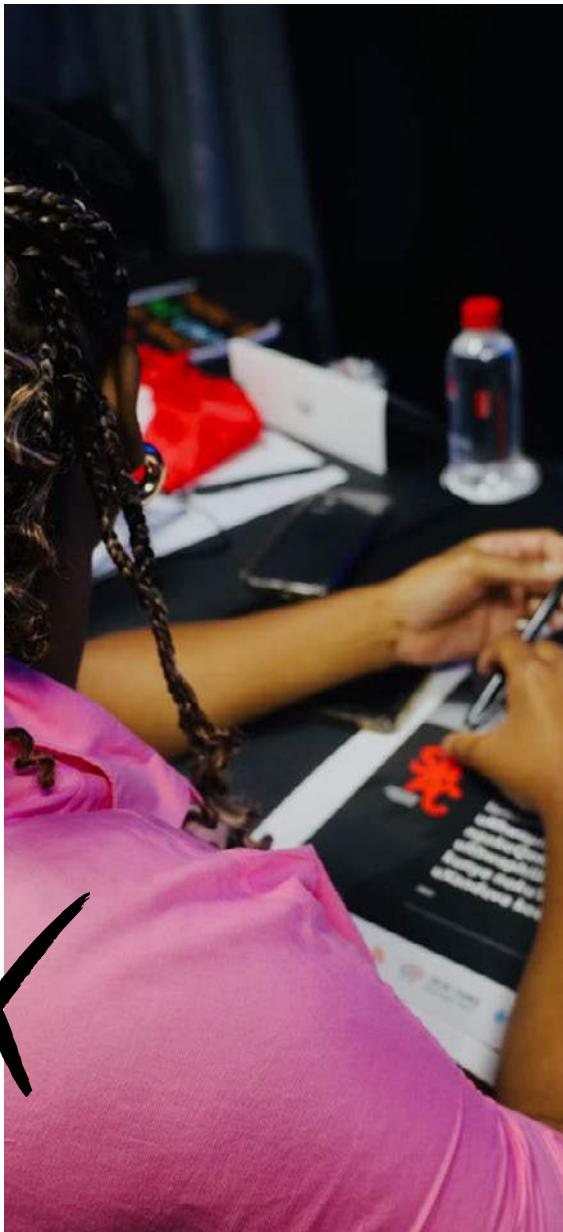
Officials from SCAT, CW, and TI were on hand to evaluate the reflections from the two groups and to provide valuable and informative feedback. The programme for the workshop enabled each CBO or CAO to reflect on the work done in phase one and how they put their micro grants to use, the key lessons learned in their community efforts, the challenges and opportunities realised in these efforts, and the next steps planned to take forward their initiatives.

Each organisation had also been provided with guidelines prior to the workshop on how to outline their presentations for future endeavours and encouraged to give extensive expression to the project goals, learnings, and plans. Many were thankful for the support they received from SCAT in preparation for the workshop.

Their presentations to the workshop included the following areas:

- A brief description of the organisation and the work it does in the community in which it is based.
- The organisations' goals and objectives in terms of the SAAC project and its envisaged outcomes.
- The challenges they have experienced in the period between CBB1, where they received their training, and CBB2.
- Organisations were also to mention opportunities they may have identified for purposes of furthering their work in their communities.
- The guidelines also encouraged them to document the key learnings from their experiences in the dynamics of the communities they chose to work in.
- They were to give the rest of the workshop an opportunity to ask questions or make inputs on their presentations, with the intention of learning and expanding their knowledge.

To help set the tone for the workshop, attendees were also addressed by Mike Koya, the acting head of the Special Investigating Unit (SIU) in the Eastern Cape. He gave a presentation on the SIU's work in the province and outlined the completed and active investigations that the SIU has embarked on in relation to municipalities, detailing the types of corruption that were being investigated and the SIU's efforts to try to curb further corruption across local government in the province.



Koya's presentation helped to put into perspective the extent of the corruption at local government level and its direct impact on service delivery, as well as the consequence management mechanisms that his organisation has recommended over the years to provincial authorities.

His address was followed by a question-and-answer session in which leaders of CBOs and CAOs could gain more knowledge on how to go about reporting corruption, formulating structured campaigns to reflect its impact on communities, and what accountability really looks like for officials or politicians who participate in corruption at the expense of citizens.

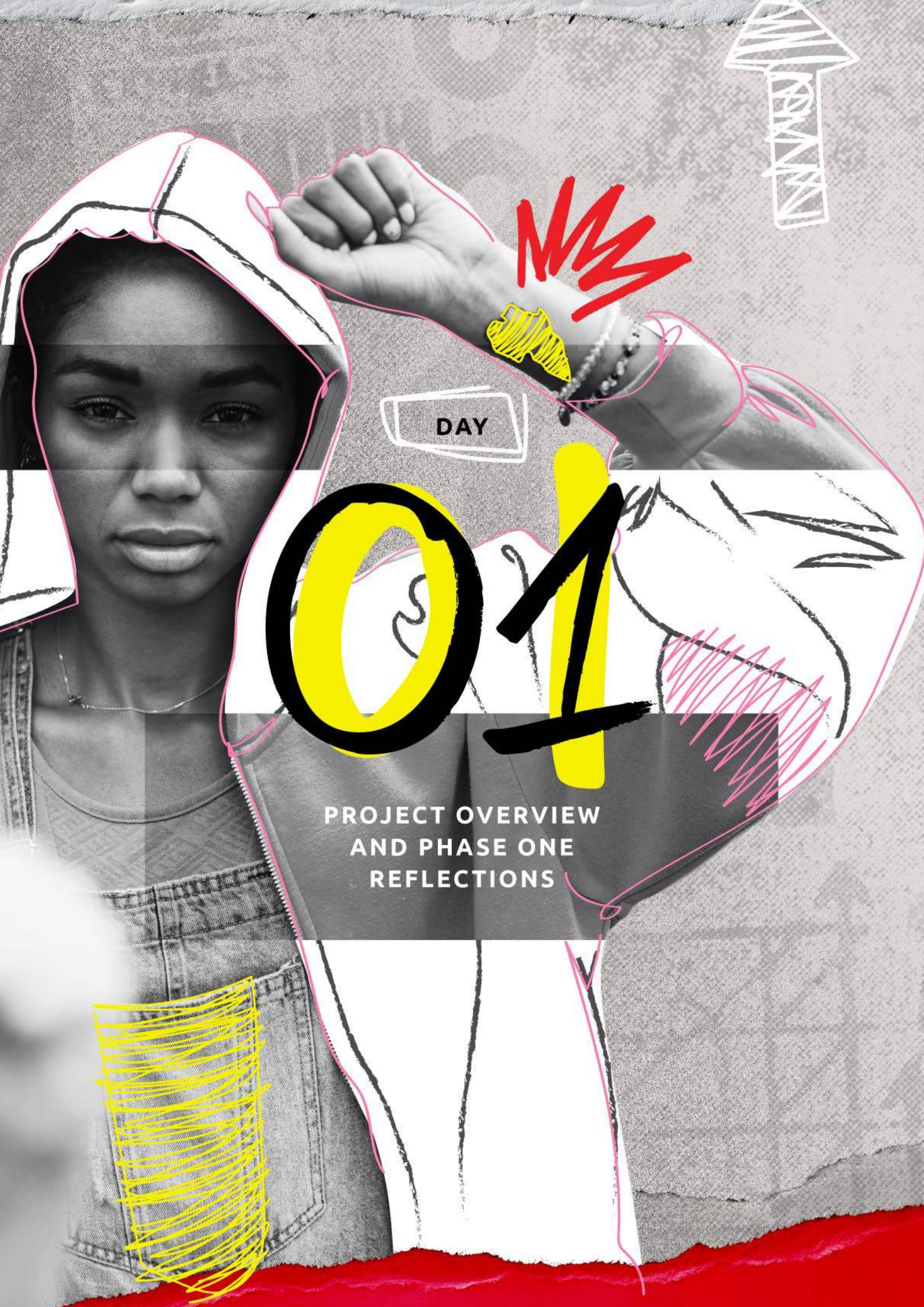
Workshop attendees did acknowledge that for many, the work they had embarked on since their training – though carried out with the support and assistance of their leaders in CBOs – was their first actual experiences of community work. They were largely commended on their abilities to think up strategies for how their messaging, target audiences, and outcomes could be achieved effectively without placing their communities in danger. They received a lot of positive and constructive feedback from participants, who also commended their growing confidence in their abilities to speak publicly.

From start to finish, CBB2 was a successful event. It provided a much-needed platform for critical

knowledge sharing and reflections on the positive gains that have so far been made in line with the principles and values of the SAAC project, namely promoting accountability and transparency in communities in a safe and responsible way.

There is still an overall sense of trepidation over whistle-blowing and the threats linked to safety, and many participants continue to hold to the view that perpetrators of corruption may be dangerous in an environment where anti-corruption initiatives are carried out in communities and without much protection.

However, the conversation has moved from merely being about 'there is an anti-corruption project making communities vulnerable to threats against safety', to being about employing strategies and tactics to raise awareness, openly finger perpetrators, and seek accountability without exposing themselves to danger. A few participants noted that they know their communities and therefore know what their communities need for service delivery to improve and for improved governance in the management of public resources. They are therefore best placed, with the knowledge that they have gained from the SAAC workshops, to lead the change that they want to see in their communities.



DAY

01

PROJECT OVERVIEW
AND PHASE ONE
REFLECTIONS

DAY ONE

PROJECT OVERVIEW AND PHASE ONE REFLECTIONS

The programme of the day was opened with prayer by Lungisa Gwen Mvula of the SCAT board of trustees, followed by introductions from all participants, with house rules explained thereafter.

In her address, Mvula urged participants to invoke the pride that residents of the Eastern Cape have long held over their province – often referred to as the home of legends – and aspire towards rebuilding the trust that residents had in its government.



LUNGISA MVULA, SCAT BOARD MEMBER, SHARES WORDS OF
ENCOURAGEMENT WITH PARTICIPANTS



One behalf of the board of trustees of SCAT I extend a warm and heartfelt welcome to all participants, old and new. You are welcome. This year's theme is 'confronting corruption to rebuild trust and accountability', so it becomes everybody's responsibility to know that they are confronting corruption to rebuild trust and accountability.

Corruption continues to rob our communities of opportunities, services, dignity. It undermines our democracy and fractures our institutions and eats away at the social fabric that binds us together.

The answers in the fight against corruption, she added, are not only in boardrooms, but wherever one finds oneself. The workshop enabled by the SAAC project is exactly where it should be, because the fight against corruption and injustice needs all of us to contribute. The aim of the SAAC project was not to point fingers at government,

but to build systems of accountability that reflect our dissatisfaction with corruption and its impact on society.



Your presence here is a powerful statement to hope and to action, not only to be here in this room, but to go and implement action, make changes where you are, and be a game changer. At SCAT we believe that community-based organisations are the first line of defence against corruption, hence you are gathered here today. It's to perpetuate that belief by SCAT.

You, the leaders and the change makers, rooted in villages, towns, and municipalities across the province, are the ones who witness these frustrations and how injustice operates and more importantly, how it can be undone. It is in your hands, it is in your mind, your body and your soul, to undo corruption.



DR JOANNE HARDING, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF SCAT

SCAT executive director Joanne Harding unpacked the essence of the thinking behind the SAAC, that in hearing about continuous damage to infrastructure, lack of service delivery, and looting of resources meant to give young people opportunities in the economy, the project partners made a proposal to the European Union to help facilitate a community-led movement.

She further located the importance of projects such as the SAAC in communities that are serviced by municipalities in the Eastern Cape, and emphasised that the period where communities must stand up and fight corruption safely and cautiously but boldly, as it affects them directly, had arrived.

“

I'm very passionate about this province. This is not a province I'm not familiar with.

Harding further encouraged full participation from those in attendance, highlighting the need for each CBO or CAO representative to feel heard and represented in the platform provided by the workshop.

“

We are wanting to support you in your projects, as you hold local government accountable.

The onus is on leaders of organisations to take initiative when things are not going according to plan in their different municipalities, knowing what budgets are being spent on, and what the integrated development plan goals are for their local authority.

“

We should not be sitting around and watching how this destruction is happening. You should be fighting for what you and your children and your grandchildren have a right to.

No community is perfect, Harding added, because there are many different ideas and it's not always easy to rally support, especially when your local government isn't adequately resourced. But the partners are here to support and work with all organisations and their efforts.

The floor raised the question of safety for those who do the actual work of reporting corruption or querying service delivery anomalies. CW's Nontobeko Gcabashe responded by highlighting the different mechanisms that organisations can use to put issues out there, such as storytelling of individual experiences that are sourced when officials engage with them through meetings, activations, and other events. An organisation's strategy should include inserting their stories in local and other media to make their challenges in communities known.

PHASE ONE REFLECTIONS



The period that followed the first CBB (CBB1) in July 2024 involved more focused training for CBOs and CAOs that received the R10 000 SAAC micro grant to undertake awareness activities within the communities in which they operate.

Grantees were encouraged to document their activities and revert to project coordinators whenever they needed support.

Jonathan Walton led the session on reflections on CBB1. He pointed to key learnings that came out of that workshop and discussed whether it achieved the purpose of encouraging a mindset among participants that communities could successfully challenge corruption at local government level.

The CBOs' and CAOs' introduction to the project was done with the understanding that there would be micro grants for which they could apply, as well as the requirements they had to meet to qualify for the grants. The same applied to the YAfA programme, which would also require organisations to nominate youth leaders in their communities who would be inducted into the programme with the purpose of raising awareness on corruption to the broader youth.

Walton's key takeaways from CBB1 included the following:

- Participants expressed that they had learned more about corruption from the workshop and wanted to learn still more.
- There was a strong view that corruption is a societal problem.
- Participants expressed an interest in the CBB activities designed to train them on how to become more involved in the fight against corruption.

- Some of the participants expressed personal concerns about their safety regarding whistle-blowing.
- One participant bravely pointed out that corruption is rife in the NGO sector, without any contradictory responses.
- There were strong sentiments expressed about educational efforts on corruption for communities.
- Participants did not express strong opinions about how they can hold municipalities accountable with the micro grants awarded.

The SAAC project, Walton added, was designed to challenge CBOs and CAOs on how to hold municipal authorities accountable and to change mindsets from an advocacy perspective. He reflected on a recent climate change-orientated workshop in which some of the organisations participated, arguing the existence of a link between climate change and corruption as it affects communities in the Eastern Cape. Examples of this can be seen in the mining sector and how communities in mining areas are affected.



What was helpful at the last CBB was the presence of the Public Service Accountability Monitor in the form of Jay Kruuse, the director, who led a session on social accountability as an advocacy tool. He helped us to analyse findings from the audit reports of the local municipalities in the Eastern Cape.

Furthermore, CW and TI shared insights on the causes and impact of corruption on local communities, particularly in terms of developmental goals.

Gcabashe invited participants to share their own perspective on learnings from CBB1.

One participant noted that she **learned the importance of holding herself accountable first before seeking the same accountability from public officials.**

Another saw the importance of empowering rural communities about what corruption is, while for another, the insights shared at CBB1 enlightened her on how relatable corruption is as it manifests at service delivery points such as clinics and social development centres.

Many went back to their organisations to impart the learnings from CBB1, with intentions of brainstorming the best strategies for the community-focused work that they would undertake. They had to decide on which groups in their communities were most vulnerable, who would be most likely to receive the messaging in a positive way, and the most effective mechanisms for educational activities.

The stark realities associated with whistle-blowing became clearer for one participant whose mindset was altered. He learned through the CBB training that he need not place his own safety under threat by attempting to investigate allegations of corruption, but rather devise safe means of reporting it to the relevant authorities.



ODWA MBANGWA FROM RISING DAWN REFLECTIONS IN BIZANA REFLECTS ON LESSONS LEARNED IN WHISTLE-BLOWING AND THE STRATEGIES HIS ORGANISATION HAD TO EMPLOY TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF THEIR OFFICIALS

The YAfAs were also encouraged to share the learnings from their own training workshop in April. Those lessons included methods they could use in mobilising young people for the same cause, and the importance of seeking inclusion in decision-making moments that municipalities afford communities where applicable.

The following table captures key points in the presentations delivered by the CBOs and CAOs

SAAC CORRUPTION BUSTING BOOTCAMP REPORT

CBO/CAO	ACTIVITIES COMPLETED	CHALLENGES	SUCSESSES	QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS
Alwande Ulwazi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three anti-corruption awareness workshops for CBOs and NPOs in the area • Anti-corruption awareness and educational workshop for women and church leaders • Anti-corruption workshop for Grade 12 learners • Workshop for community members 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community members' fear of openly discussing corruption • Fear of retaliation among workshop participants • Technical issues with presentation equipment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participants' willingness to share experiences of corruption • Appetite for collaboration in other anti-corruption initiatives 	<p>Plans on increasing participant numbers/involvement of men in workshops.</p> <p>They reached large audiences with little resources</p> <p>RESPONSE:</p> <p>There was clear messaging on workshop intentions, so the audiences were targeted for specific events</p> <p>Impact could be measured by looking at the word-of-mouth effect, from targeting smaller groups, which in turn spread awareness to like-minded groups (e.g. church structures)</p>
Dordrecht Legal Advice and Community Development Agency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshop for the organisation's management committee • Stakeholder mapping and engagement (after analysing the challenges the community faces. Stakeholders included the municipality, the local CPF, the NPA and justice department, SAPS) • Workshop with religious groups in the area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fears of retaliation against whistle-blowing were raised in some of the workshops 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Religious grouping proposed an anti-corruption forum to support the CBO • Anti-corruption protest march over an unfinished local project and allegations of corruption therein 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encouraging to see the raised community awareness on the possible existence of corruption in religious structures, and willingness to hold them accountable • Intentional activities and audiences translated into broader awareness • A question was asked on what the strategy was behind inviting the SAPS and the NPA, to which the coordinator responded by saying the representatives of the institutions needed to hear first-hand experiences with crime and injustices brought on by the presence of foreign-owned businesses in the area

SAAC CORRUPTION BUSTING BOOTCAMP REPORT

CBO/CAO	ACTIVITIES COMPLETED	CHALLENGES	SUCCESSES	QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS
Development Education Leadership Teams in Action (DELTA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal training workshop for staff and board Two community awareness workshops Awareness workshops at two schools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reports from community are that services are rendered efficiently only when DELTA officials are present at service points such as SASSA offices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Raised awareness and participation by women, who are most vulnerable to corruption Communities welcomed the platform for raising corruption issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A participant gave advice for DELTA to come up with a strategy for ensuring efficiency and intolerance to bribery at SASSA and Home Affairs offices, as opposed to being reactionary Another proposed that DELTA use a public protector-issued form that enables CBOs to undertake service delivery assessments at service points
Inter-church LDA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intervened on behalf of Nelson Mandela University NSFAS applicants by enquiring on the status of their applications (following allegations of corruption in the admissions department) Had a school engagement, with teachers as the target audience, to highlight the dangers of identity theft Used the International Anti-Corruption Day (IACD) to raise awareness on the issue of identity theft and its impact on youth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of follow-up on the part of NMU on application/ eligibility statuses Feedback from participants claiming non-responsiveness from police as a deterrent for reporting Resignation of one CBO official meant some institutional knowledge was lost 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The election of an implementation and monitoring committee to streamline the management of corruption reports Home Affairs was receptive to cause, urging the CBO to gather at least 10 cases that they would readily investigate Positive feedback from participants in workshops, whose understanding of corruption were broadened 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A comment from the floor commended the CBO for its approach in addressing corruption as a human rights issue Another highlighted the ability to balance representation in terms of target audiences

SAAC CORRUPTION BUSTING BOOTCAMP REPORT

CBO/CAO	ACTIVITIES COMPLETED	CHALLENGES	SUCSESSES	QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS
Ukhahlamba Legal Advice Agency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two community workshops where SAPS, SGBs, and other leadership structures were invited. These were partly focused on better governance of burial societies Youth anti-corruption awareness workshop 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ward committees declined invitation to participate Some schools failed to alert SGB members of impending workshops. CBO conducted follow-up visits to each to find out why Low numbers for youth event, despite mobilisation efforts. Topic of engagement was not enticing, as youth are drawn to engagements on job opportunities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community participation and eagerness in the discourse on anti-corruption 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advice from the floor was for the team to consider reframing their messaging to attract more youth participation. One way is to contextualise the impact of corruption on young people and on job opportunities Another comment proposed more targeted awareness drives ahead of events, using social media to spread the word
Mqanduli Advice Office	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Activation at Mqanduli clinic, where the CBO encouraged visitors to report service delivery issues they encounter regularly Community workshop targeting a rural area that lacks water and ablution infrastructure Successfully engaged several traditional councils to gain access to communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pitching strategies to traditional councils is not easy, but you must first engage them and rope in their support as they too experience service delivery challenges Lack of resources (laptops, smartphones) for purposes of helping youth access social development or study opportunities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Satisfied with the youth numbers as they show a genuine interest in the topic of anti-corruption (in the context of rural communities with few opportunities) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A question was raised on the floor on what strategies could be used by all CBOs to attract youth participation. One response was that CBOs must consider engaging youth in a multitude of topics and activities to establish rapport, and not only on the isolated topic of anti-corruption. The challenges faced by the youth are many, and they should be allowed to drive the conversations on topics that affect them directly Another piece of advice was to target learning institutions for access to their students, as well as targeted invitations to youth groups in churches Established youth structures that are working on other causes may also be useful

SAAC CORRUPTION BUSTING BOOTCAMP REPORT

CBO/CAO	ACTIVITIES COMPLETED	CHALLENGES	SUCCESSES	QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS
Port St Johns Community Advice Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The CBO engaged in a stakeholder mapping exercise Three community workshops within traditional councils, one of which was on IACD 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fear of speaking out against corruption on a public platform Engagements were mislabelled by some as having a hidden agenda Scepticism among the youth due to political factionalism and bullying CBO had to reschedule events due to weather changes: without proper facilities to hold workshops, many engagements are held outdoors 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CBO requires support from the partner organisations to facilitate the presence of subject matter experts for workshops in order to raise their profiles. Alternatively, the partners could co-facilitate the events CBO was able to use the topic of climate change impact to gain access to communities A question from the floor was on the feasibility of the CBOs in general being able to facilitate virtual presentations from the partner organisations on matters they need support with. Many of the participants welcomed this and were open to facilitating such interventions
Masiphakame-ni Local Development Agency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Three community workshops Roundtable discussion on anti-corruption awareness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conflicting schedules for key stakeholders Fear of speaking out against corruption 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CBO wishes to publish records of their work to raise the profile of the organisation. The media training manual published by CW will be useful in that regard



WORKSHOPS CONDUCTED BY THE PORT ST JOHNS LEGAL ADVICE CENTRE. CREDIT: PSJLAC



PUBLIC OFFICIALS ADDRESS THE COMMUNITY AT A WORKSHOP ORGANISED BY THE UKHAHLAMBA LEGAL ADVICE DEVELOPMENT CENTRE. CREDIT: ULADC

The session wrapped up with reflections from the floor on the presentations made and the work done by the CBOs that presented.

There was consensus that the organisations put a lot of effort into the foundational work of their campaigns, despite numerous challenges. The different strategies employed to garner support and reach communities were also valuable as they could be adopted by other organisations for their own work.

There was a call for collaborative work amongst CBOs as their different approaches could potentially complement each other.

The organisations that had not applied for micro grants also drew inspiration from those that did.



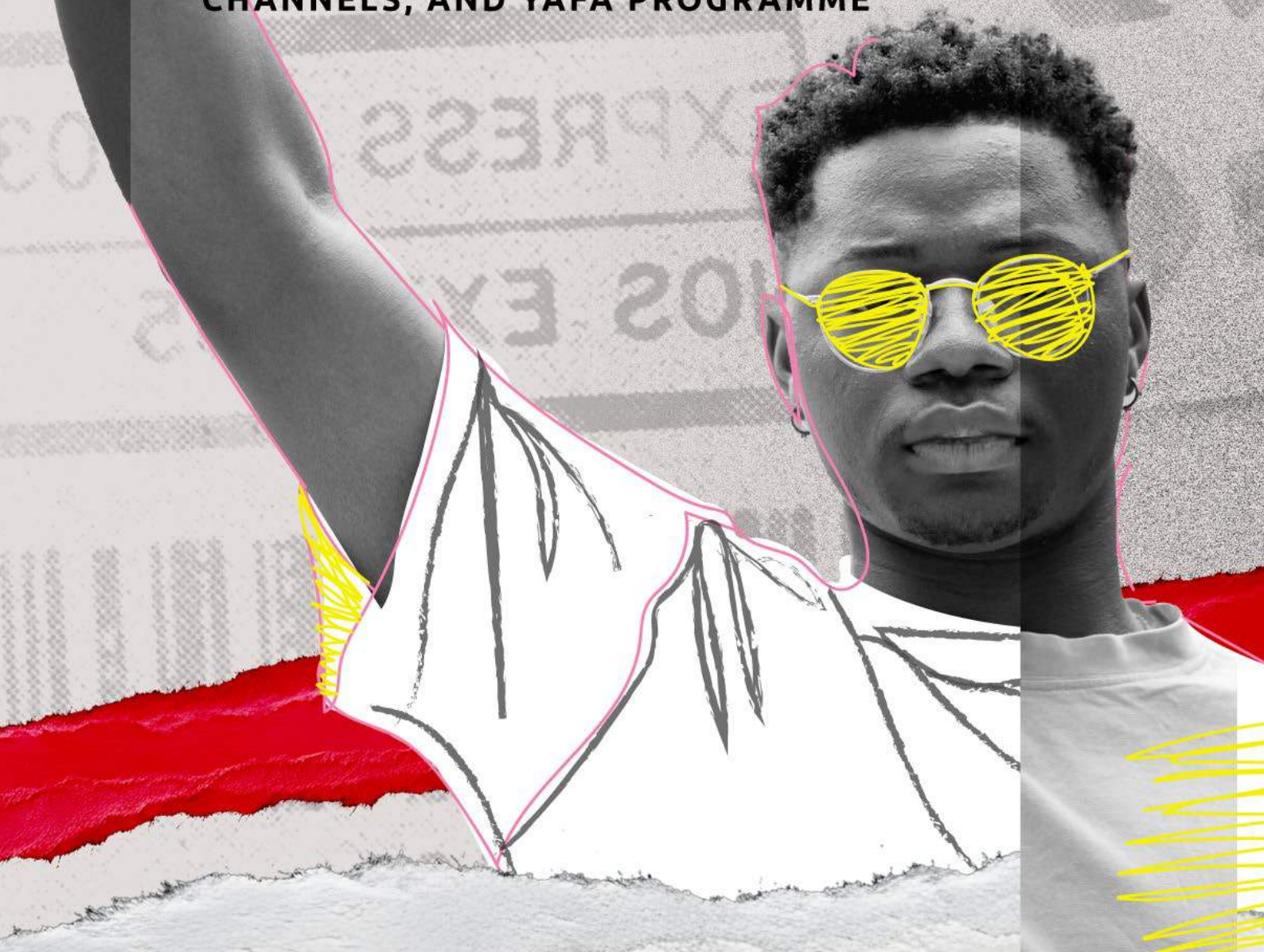
What I learned from those who presented was that there are many ways to approach our communities without placing the spotlight on ourselves. Our work as leaders is to come up with different ways to introduce a culture of seeking accountability.



DAY

02

SIU OVERVIEW OF CORRUPTION
CASES IN EC, CORRUPTION REPORTING
CHANNELS, AND Yafa PROGRAMME



DAY TWO

SIU OVERVIEW OF CORRUPTION CASES IN EC, CORRUPTION REPORTING CHANNELS, AND YAFA PROGRAMME

The second day of the CBB was a big shift from the previous one in that it opened with a detailed presentation of the work of the SIU by the institution's acting head of the provincial office, Mike Koya. He was introduced to the project and its participants by Jonathan Walton.

Koya gave an overview of the local government sector corruption situation in the Eastern Cape, explaining that many of the cases that the SIU is seized with have been under the institution's focus for some time.



One of the problems we are having in our fight against corruption in municipalities is that today you have this municipal manager or this city manager. After three days – if he doesn't deliver tenders to a certain group of people – they remove him and put someone else.

In one case, a municipal manager became a mayor while an investigation into the administration of the municipality was ongoing.

Koya's presentation provided the background of the SIU and its foundational mandate in the Constitution. He also explained how it functions, detailing the functions of each of its units and the pieces of legislation on which it relies in its undertakings. He spoke of the challenges that such an institution faces, such as the fact that all investigations are borne out of presidential proclamations that outline the terms of reference. There are also limitations to what the SIU can do in terms of consequence management. Unlike the Office of the Public Protector, the SIU's findings on a matter can only be effected by recommendations, as its conclusions are not binding.

On the other hand, Koya added, the institution can partner with movements such as the SAAC to help bolster its profile and for the SIU too to better understand the challenges of corruption on the ground.



SPECIAL INVESTIGATING UNIT ACTING HEAD FOR THE EC, MIKE KOYA

For corruption to flourish, it must occur in circumstances where there is no transparency in how government does business, Koya added. Procurement processes in municipalities especially, need to be transparent in order to prevent corruption at the level most vital for service delivery. He gave examples of several procurement-related cases that the SIU has investigated in the local government sector of the Eastern Cape.



Koya further highlighted key corruption deterrents, namely:

- Transparency in the procurement of goods and services.
- An active and aware citizenry that holds government accountable.
- A robust media that consistently exposes corruption as it happens.
- A safe environment for whistle-blowers.

As drivers of the local government anti-corruption strategy, the SIU also has a focus on preventative measures that can be used in the fight against

that Koya shared with CBB2 are also shared in other engagements with community groupings that have an interest in anti-corruption work in the province. The aim is to empower community groups with knowledge on how corruption manifests in their municipalities and the reporting mechanisms that are available to them to make a difference.

Following his address, Koya took questions from the floor, which ranged in focus from challenges in procurement, to the neglect of internal systems, and the protection of whistle-blowers.



USING TECHNOLOGY TO FIGHT CORRUPTION

The second session, led by CW's Mzwandile Banjathwa, focused on technology-based tools developed by civil society organisations in the interest of seeking accountability and transparency from public institutions.

Banjathwa spoke to the need for transparent governance of the public sector and why it is important for not just civil society, but ordinary citizens too, to continuously fight for it.



These principles are enriched in our Constitution, and we have to be serious about advocating for them.



He referenced the Michael Komape case, in which a five-year-old school learner died in 2014 after falling into a pit latrine at his school in Chebeng Village in Limpopo, to introduce a tracker developed by civil society organisation Section 27 in the aftermath of the incident. The tracker enables the public to monitor the norms and standards policy that underpins the Department of Basic Education's role in ensuring safe and functional infrastructure in schools across the country. Through the tracker, users can monitor the department's progress in constructing infrastructure such as toilets, particularly in rural areas.

Sivio, a global organisation that has Africa as one of its focus areas, also offers one such tool.

Yolokazi Mfuto spoke about African Citizen Watch, a digital tracker that monitors government commitments to policy, to see if they deliver on these.

She gave an in-depth presentation of the areas that Sivio tracks with the tool, which include corruption, climate change, and social services. Mfuto also explained the methodology of the tool and how it can be navigated for purposes of advocacy efforts.



The data is not only collected for storage. It is collected so that it can inform policy briefs, our opinion pieces, and our reports.

Mfuto used the example of the launch of South Africa's government of national unity to demonstrate policy and structural changes as they happen, as well as how the changes in leadership and culture translate into action for purposes of service delivery.



It is important that we familiarise ourselves with the policy positions of our government...and that it meets the promises of its policies without fear or favour.

We can use such tools, she added, to hold our government accountable and to take them back to their promises and commitments to citizens. How can the YAfAs in the room access the tool, Mfuto was asked, to which she explained that it can be useful for those who are interested in advocating for certain reforms but do not have evidentiary research to bolster their work.

Banjathwa asked if the tracker applies to provincial and local government. To this Mfuto responded by saying Sivio does not, unfortunately, have the resources to input on the local government sector, but there are other organisations that have that interest. Furthermore, her office could support with advice on how to track the local government policy framework. Banjathwa challenged the SCAT team by asking if the organisation has an appetite to support such a tool, to which Vuyo Msizi said the

organisation's leadership could discuss how best to support, subject to there being enough financial resources.

The next question asked what happens when an organisation has tracked a service delivery commitment, but finds that government has failed to deliver on it. Mfuto urged participants to use the results of their tracking as part of their data collection efforts and where applicable, partner with other organisations that have similar interests, to advocate for action.

Moving on to CW's own digital offerings, Banjathwa spoke to participants about the Veza Tool, which was created to track the work of the South African Police Service (SAPS) in countering corruption.





We decided to develop a tool that would allow members of the public, activists, and the media to be able to scrutinise the resource allocation within the SAPS and whether it is effective in fighting crime and preventing lawlessness and corruption.

The rest of the session was interactive, with participants exploring Veza to search for information on the police stations in their areas. They also shared insights on how police stations in some areas enjoy good publicity and favourable profiles in the media while the reality for many on the ground is the opposite. Banjathwa urged participants to use the tool and rate their police stations accurately, and to encourage others in their communities to do the same, so that the true profiles of the stations are recorded to enable advocacy campaigns to help improve them.

Again, questions arose about the possibility of expanding Veza to include municipalities and their entities.



CW'S MZWANDILE BANJATHWA EXPLAINS HOW THE VEZA TOOL WORKS

YAFAS IN THE SPOTLIGHT

The rest of day two saw the 10 young people selected in 2024 to participate in the SAAC YAfA programme presenting on the activities they have undertaken, and their work plans for the coming phase of the project. They spoke of the challenges they experienced and lessons learned in their work, as well as the impact of their efforts.

YAfA programme coordinator Thembi Ntshongoyi emphasised that there is still a lot of work ahead for the group as they navigate the anti-corruption space. She urged the leaders of the organisations to which the YAfAs belong, to give them support and guidance.



YAfA PROGRAMME COORDINATOR THEMBI TSHONGOYI TALKS ABOUT THE WORK OF HER TEAM



We are trying to address a micro-level issue here and it is us, the youth, who will have to deal with the consequences of what is happening today - said Tshongoyi.

The presenters took questions and advice from participants on their work plans and approaches to projects. They were guided on awareness-raising efforts, the use of social and mass media for purposes of amplification of their activities, and identifying and actively engaging stakeholders for support in their efforts.



Yafa Lucky Moshoeshoe gives his work plan presentation



Yafa Thandokazi Mgeni gives her work plan presentation



Yafa Asakhe Ngwenya gives her work plan presentation



A group of Yafas form a team circle outside the meeting room

The following table captures key points in the presentations delivered by the YAfAs

SAAC CORRUPTION BUSTING BOOTCAMP REPORT

YAFa ORGANISATION	WORK PLAN OVERVIEW	ACTIVITIES	IMPACT AND KEY LEARNINGS	CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS	NEXT STEPS
Ithabale Matiye (Mount Fletcher Advice Office)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To raise awareness on the impact of corruption on the community Develop campaigns on corruption topics such as nepotism and undue self-enrichment in terms of how they affect job-seeking youth 	Educational campaigns	Community members showed interest in the topics. Most were waiting for a leader to engage them on service delivery challenges they face	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unavailability of community members, which will be resolved by scheduling engagements on weekends Poor literacy among large sectors of the community who are unable to grasp campaign messaging. This can be resolved by developing educational materials with more graphic than written content Shortage of appropriately sized facilities to hold engagements. To rectify this, the team will ask for permission from local schools to use their facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organising catering for engagements Printing out t-shirts with call-to-action messaging Producing pamphlets with graphics to make them more relatable Establishing anti-corruption committees for different areas
Thandokazi Mgeni (Adelaide Advice Centre)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote youth development Address local service delivery issues Target schools to advocate for improved service delivery and learner development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Workshops at schools which started by first introducing the YAFa programme to principals. Allowed learners to lead the conversation on issues that affect them directly Youth workshop to ascertain how corruption affects them directly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High level of awareness among learners at a school for disabled children 10 young people committed during workshop to partner with organisation in youth-focused efforts 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More youth workshops Door-to-door awareness campaign to engage people of all ages

Yafa Organisation	Work Plan Overview	Activities	Impact and Key Learnings	Challenges and Solutions	Next Steps
Sisonke Mkwasi (Dordrecht Legal Advice and Community Development Agency)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Educating the community on corruption 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Workshop for a local church, where different types of corruption were discussed, along with the impact Peaceful march organised through SANCO where petitions were handed over to law enforcement sector stakeholders. The petitions stemmed from service delivery issues raised by the community over the police 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Positive response to workshop Positive response from peaceful march Gained confidence in public speaking Gained teamwork skills Got to engage with diverse groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Classism among church denominations, where some are undermined for being less organised than others. The solution was to emphasise message of equality and commonness among churches Dysfunctional streetlights in the area gave rise to incidents of crime, but due to the pressure bolstered by the march, they were restored Fear of speaking out and reporting known criminals and public officials allegedly involved in corruption. In response to this, an interim committee was established, to which members of the community can report incidents of crime and corruption 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visit schools with grade 8 learners as target audience, for awareness workshops Campaign targeted at SGB members and teachers to educate them on advocacy opportunities Engage group of 10 CPF youth for purpose of designating them to spread awareness message Managing WhatsApp group created by interim committee with public sector stakeholders in it

SAAC CORRUPTION BUSTING BOOTCAMP REPORT

Yafa Organisation	Work Plan Overview	Activities	Impact and Key Learnings	Challenges and Solutions	Next Steps
Lucky Moshoeshoe (Siyanakekela Community Development Agency)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Foster a culture of responsible youth who are accountable Use sports and recreation to help spread awareness around corruption and accountability. Sports has the power to create good leaders and keep young people out of trouble 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Football and netball tournament hosted in April to raise funds and to mobilise the community on issues of crime and corruption It comprised 16 football teams and six netball teams Awareness-raising engagement on 27 April 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Positive responses from youth who participated in sporting event. They were also inspired to have another mini tournament after having seen the success of the first one The principal of the school that hosted the tournament shared positive feedback 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poor turnout to April engagement, but the group turned the discussion into a brainstorming session on ways to mobilise youth for the next engagement Low number of donors contributed towards the sporting event 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awareness campaign in schools with focus on two relatable topics: bullying and theft A more targeted workshop with grades 11 and 12 learners on the types of corruption they may encounter at the end of their schooling career and how to report this Develop a targeted message that focuses on accountability and responsibility
Asakhe Ngwenya (Inter-church local development agency)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Targeting schools with awareness campaign. This is motivated by corruption being a human rights violation Mobilising communities to speak out against and report corruption, and call for accountability from government Asset preservation awareness campaign to educate communities on the dangers of destruction of public property during protests Maintaining study circle movement to promote social cohesion and continued dialogue among youth, thereby spreading awareness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Door-to-door campaign raising awareness around anti-corruption Created a "study circle" movement to encourage cohesion and open discussions among youth. Presented a case study to inspire dialogue 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conversations about corruption and accountability made it relatable and mind-sets are changing over its direct impact on society Poor awareness of corruption impact 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local councillor abuses authority by selecting only those in his close circle for jobs. It was agreed among the community that a meeting must be held to address the issue Absence of catering for events meant low turnout Fear among community members to speak out on an open platform, in contrast to them being vocal in the door-to-door engagements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A human rights awareness workshop A workshop educating community on the Integrated Development Plan model of government

SAAC CORRUPTION BUSTING BOOTCAMP REPORT

YAFA ORGANISATION	WORK PLAN OVERVIEW	ACTIVITIES	IMPACT AND KEY LEARNINGS	CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS	NEXT STEPS
Sinazo Nxiwa (Alwande Ulwazi Community Advice Centre)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Empowering youth in community and schools through education and advocacy • Promoting youth empowerment by engaging with local service delivery issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth-focused workshops on corruption, its impact and methods of reporting it • Conducted outreach events to raise awareness and encourage youth participation • Facilitated discussion that encouraged critical thinking around corruption 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peer-to-peer engagements inspired young people to open up about corruption and to mobilise others • Schools also provided an entry point into the broader community • High level of participation from youth and genuine interest in campaign 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low turnout of teachers at engagements, despite them being located at schools. The good thing about this is that learners feel confident to talk openly about challenges at schools • Further training for YAFA will strengthen the quality of work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning follow-up workshop for youth as feedback received indicated interest • Aim to establish partnerships with local stakeholders and generate youth-focused content for engagements • Use storytelling to reach and mobilise more youth • Train youth in basic investigative skills to help them identify incidents of corruption
Zilungile Ngalonkulu (Mount Frere Paralegal Advice Centre)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outreach and education through workshops • Raise awareness about corruption and its impact • Promote transparency by mobilising community through social media to educate them on how to demand it 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth awareness campaign about corruption and its impact • Community workshop to mobilise residents on impact of corruption and reporting mechanisms. Event was publicised using flyers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community members demonstrated increased awareness • Also demonstrated commitment to positive change 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Securing venues on weekdays, and churches are not keen as the topic is outside of their interests. The solution is to invite church leaders to events, to encourage them to take part in campaigns and provide venues • Dissenting views on the topic of corruption dilute the core message, so there is division among community. A way to address this is to conduct a door-to-door campaign to gain access to individuals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshops to be held at high schools to influence young minds on ethical behaviour for them to value transparency and fairness in leadership • Peer learning group to promote sustained learning in anti-corruption

SAAC CORRUPTION BUSTING BOOTCAMP REPORT

Yafa Organisation	Work Plan Overview	Activities	Impact and Key Learnings	Challenges and Solutions	Next Steps
Lukho Khuphelo (DELTA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Empower community to identify, report, and address corruption Service delivery fails i.e. unfinished road 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Met with officials of the traditional councils of Nyandeni Met with Nyandeni municipality officials with aim of establishing partnership Distributed public protector educational materials and contact details Recruited 15 community members to help drive awareness campaign 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Traditional leaders permitted the team to work in their areas Municipal officials agreed to a partnership Community members showed interest in learning about reporting tools and upcoming awareness campaign 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scheduling meetings with municipal officials and traditional councils took longer than expected Travelling to the relevant rural areas was challenging, but the coordinator managed to arrange reliable transport service Fear among community members to report corruption 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carry out awareness campaign with the 15 recruits Community dialogue thereafter to develop an action plan Conclude the partnership agreement with the municipality
Anitha Sonduza (Ukhahlamba Legal Advice Centre and Development Agency)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Raise awareness around anti-corruption for communities around Sterkspruit Address incidents of unfair practices and bribery for employment Address lack of accountability in the delivery of services by local municipality Address the erosion of public trust among communities Promote integrity in the communities within which we work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conducted workshop for youth, addressing issues of exclusion in economic opportunities in the agriculture sector 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is a lack of awareness around corruption Fear of reporting corruption incidents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Struggled with scheduling workshop for youth in multiple areas, but used social media to publicise the event, which helped 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Present anti-corruption messaging to high school learners in the area Conduct door-to-door awareness campaign Follow up on proposal made to local municipality for the funding of sporting equipment for youth that attend training at local sports and arts centre CBO has a planned fundraiser at a local mall. It's an opportunity to mobilise youth Participate in honey project, a community initiative which can draw the attention of young people and provide recreational and entrepreneurial skills Wishes for funding to produce educational materials to distribute in public areas such as taxi ranks

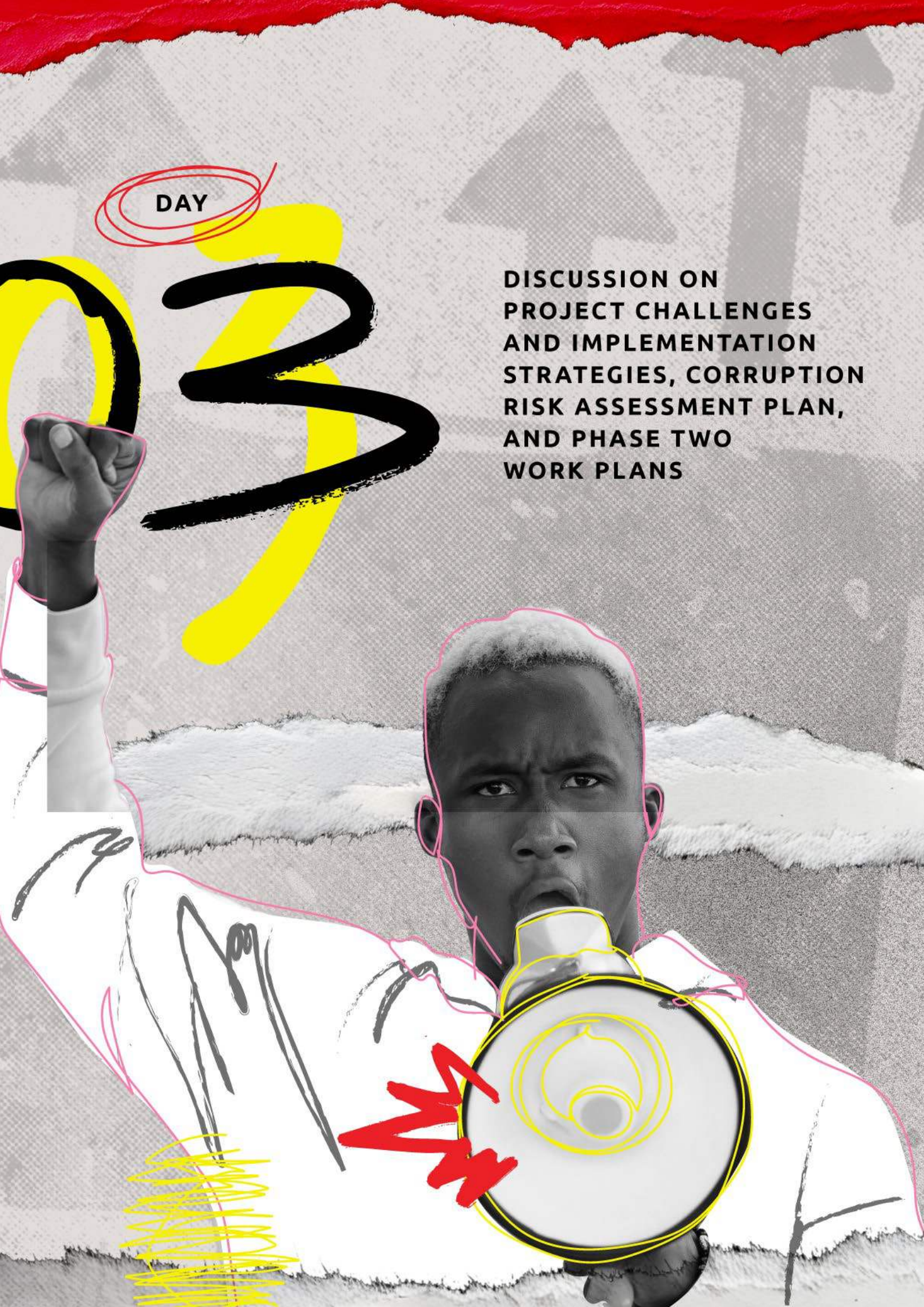
SAAC CORRUPTION BUSTING BOOTCAMP REPORT

YAFA ORGANISATION	WORK PLAN OVERVIEW	ACTIVITIES	IMPACT AND KEY LEARNINGS	CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS	NEXT STEPS
Zuko Mtsholwa (Flagstaff Paralegal Advice Office)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Address the lack of transparency in service delivery projects Mobilise youth to participate in anti-corruption initiatives Instil culture of accountability in community organisations that serve the public 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awareness campaign launched in May with youth at a local sports club 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth need more awareness activities and for their development to be encouraged 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There was a positive response from members of the community to the anti-corruption initiative There is an opportunity for wider reach as participants committed to spreading the message Timing for event was a challenge as YAFA had to wait for participants to first conclude club obligations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Peer learning dialogues for schools in the area Awareness workshops planned for local sports clubs on prevalence of corruption outside government



DAY

**DISCUSSION ON
PROJECT CHALLENGES
AND IMPLEMENTATION
STRATEGIES, CORRUPTION
RISK ASSESSMENT PLAN,
AND PHASE TWO
WORK PLANS**



DAY THREE

DISCUSSION ON PROJECT CHALLENGES AND IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES, CORRUPTION RISK ASSESSMENT PLAN, AND PHASE TWO WORK PLANS

REFLECTIONS ON THE PREVIOUS DAY (PARAPHRASED)

The work that has been done is commendable, but how do we amplify it and put it out there? We have clearly articulated that the project is being piloted in the Eastern Cape with hopes of taking it to other provinces. We should have started moving towards alerting other parts of the country about the work that we do here.

The Eastern Cape is the first province of the SAAC: "We would like to see rooms filled with people, community leaders like yourselves, all over South Africa and for them to be able to get the work

going." Media training for the YAfAs for purposes of providing guidelines on how to move the work forward using the guidelines in the manuals.

The SIU session stood out and enlightened us on the work they do. Also, our responsibilities towards our communities to ensure that they are empowered to hold authorities accountable for service delivery. The work we do is important but taken for granted by authorities and the way to change that is to empower ourselves and communities further so that they are not taken for granted any more.

I learned a lot from yesterday, and what stood out for me is the work that Corruption Watch does.

I learned that there are organisations focused solely on raising awareness and giving attention to the scourge that is corruption in our country. Furthermore, it was refreshing to learn from the SIU that there are ways to report corruption without putting your own safety under threat.

The lesson we learned is that there are alternative ways to approach our community work without drawing the wrong kind of attention by using the term corruption. The insights from the SIU on how policies meant to govern municipalities are at times exploited for corruption to flourish. The session on the Veza tool was another useful one that showed us how we can take the power of demanding accountability in the hands of residents.

We are learning of different ways in which we can take the anti-corruption work forward safely.

It was also good to learn of the ways in which whistle-blowers can be protected. From a YAfA perspective, it was also good to see the support from coordinators of organisations, for our efforts.

It was good to learn of the Veza tool and that it empowers us to monitor the police stations in our areas. As for where the services of our own police station are limited, we now have the responsibility of finding out if we can support efforts to improve the service and to potentially advocate for greater victim support focus.

The quality of the presentations by the YAfAs was very impressive, given that they only received training a month ago. The depth of the thinking that went into the presentations they gave us was also impressive, as is the level of innovation they have applied to their work. The project as a whole has a bright future with these YAfAs involved, and let's hope to get more funding to make even more inroads.

One of the organisation coordinators raised a challenge that we also face in our area regarding SRD grants. That of new applicants being turned away and told they are already in the system. We thought it only had to do with a mismanaged system, but now realise that it may well be rooted in corrup-

tion. The original coordinator who raised the issue responded by explaining what measures her team has taken to address it, with the help of a partner organisation, the Black Sash. They further convened a workshop where the relevant stakeholders included Sassa and Home Affairs to reveal to them the gravity of the issue. There may be an opportunity to involve the SIU, with the institution having presented to the workshop how they work, for a grouping of all the cases across the communities to be investigated.

My concern remains that our role in the project is still not clarified. Joanne explained that there is no need to place our own safety in danger, but if our main role is to empower communities to take on corruption with our assistance, but how do we take their complaints forward and face the people who work for municipalities without fear of retaliation? I'm known to the officials there, so if I go there to demand transparency on their procurement process.



It would be useful for further clarity on the role of coordinators, as we cannot play the part of investigators. Our organisation's approach was to call on the municipality in our area to form a structure that will handle reports of corruption. It is supported by departments that already exist in the municipality, the mayor and the chief whip and managers. The same approach we used to advocate the same at district level. The representatives of the different departments are responsible for facilitating access to information on the work they are doing, with the political representatives' knowledge.

The fear of exposure is a legitimate one, because it is about not wanting to be at the centre of exposing wrongdoing. It is not unfounded because we've seen people die for exposing corruption.

The reason why corruption has become so pervasive in our country is that we fear confronting it. The fight against corruption requires bravery in the same way that apartheid did. When you fight for something you believe in, unfortunately there are risks. Your options are to go the soft route, a middle ground, or be the visible activist fighting corruption on the ground. We've learned about the whistle-blower protection mechanisms, and there is also support from CW and SCAT officials who have been trained in the area.

It is important to keep reviewing our position as coordinators in the project. After hearing SCAT (Joanne's) message on day one, I went back to the project documents to see if it aligns with the vision and mission of my organisation. I am not an investigator, but I'm motivated to participate because the vision and mission of my organisation says it exists to share information with and empower communities.

The first step is to educate people in your area about corruption, then you build a foundation of

activists who will support your organisation's goals. We will provide support for strategic approaches of her organisation as per our mandate as programme officers.

It's on the back of such concerns that organisations like CW create digital tools that enable you to access the information you need to get ahead with your work. You need the support of such innovations, and we take that seriously.

CORRUPTION RISK ASSESSMENT

Next up was Jorum Duri, TI project manager for the SAAC, to talk about the purpose and importance of evaluating the impact of a project such as the SAAC. Duri explained the evaluation process that the project leads will be embarking on in the next phase. He started off by giving an overview of the work and interests of TI across the globe.



One of our global objectives is to build community leadership against corruption. This is something that is very key as we realise that communities are not just victims of corruption, but they can also play an important role in the fight against corruption.



TI'S SAAC PROJECT MANAGER, JORUM DURI, TAKES PARTICIPANTS THROUGH THE CORRUPTION RISK ASSESSMENT PROCESS

TI is dedicated to empowering communities working in the fight against corruption and the SAAC is one of the projects that the global movement is proud to be associated with.

For everyone involved in the SAAC to be able to carry out the work of fighting corruption, they need to understand it first. They need to understand the types of corruption that exists, its impact, and its risks. The corruption risk assessment planned for the next phase of the SAAC involves compiling citizen-generated data on corruption to use to advocate for reforms within the different structures of authority.

The assessment is planned for the period between May and the end of 2025 and has several key objectives:

- To determine the risks associated with corruption in local government.
- Focus on the potential reforms that can be achieved through advocacy.
- Determine areas of interest where patterns of irregularity in processes may occur.

Areas such as recruitment in municipalities and budget allocations for services are some of the examples that assessors may focus on. They should also be able to rate the levels of corruption risks associated in the occurrences.

Once the assessment phase is concluded, the next step will be to propose mitigation measures to address the problem.

Duri further explained that the assessment is only expected of the organisations that will receive the macro grants meant for the next phase of the project. "Information that is collected from the corruption risk assessments will then be used to make submissions to local, provincial, and national government with recommendations on measures to mitigate corruption."

Ten municipalities will be assessed on financial management and recruitment processes, based on

the organisations that will receive the larger grant. To address the issue of capacity in undertaking the research process, the three partners agreed to deploy researchers who will conduct the work. These are young graduates who will be given the opportunity to work closely with the CBOs, after training for them as well as the coordinators, to feed into the work that will be done by an independent researcher who will collate the data collected and prepare it for purposes of the submissions.

1

1. AIMED AT UNDERSTANDING CORRUPTION

- A corruption risk assessment is aimed at understanding corruption risks
- It focuses on the potential for - rather than the perception, existence or extent of - corruption
- We are not asking for investigation of corruption cases, but to understand the likelihood the risk that corruption will occur and its impact of risk should it occur.



Once the partner organisations have selected the macro grantees, the process of recruiting and training the researchers will take place over an envisaged time frame of about three or four months.

There is budget for the researchers, said Duri, answering a question from the floor. Another participant asked who will be responsible for the recruitment of the researchers, to which he answered that the partner organisations are responsible for that.

Gcabashe explained that the field researchers' work will be guided by the CBOs' work plans, as they will be monitoring the activities that will be carried out. Walton further recommended that CBO coordinators familiarise themselves with the Public Finance Management Act as it pertains to fraud and corruption risks, so that they are well versed in identifying them.

Another question enquired whether there will be provision in the future, once the Veza tool has been modified to include local government, for CBO coordinators to input into it when they identify risks, to which Gcabashe confirmed that there will be.

To close off the session, Walton further explained the types of risks that are likely to come in the research process, by way of examples that involved the recruitment of individuals previously investigated for corruption while working for municipalities, only for them to resign and find employment in another municipality where due diligence was not done to mitigate the risk.

WORK PLANS UNVEILED

Next up the organisations that have applied for the macro grant presented their proposed work plans to the workshop. Walton encouraged the coordinators to use the opportunity to present wisely and be allowed to express their plans in a language in which they are most comfortable and confident.

Applicants were guided to develop work plans that required them to identify corruption or mismanagement of resources that could potentially be attributed to their municipality. Once this was done, they were to elaborate on the impact of the problem on the community, the means they would employ to address it, the support structures they have identified to assist, and the potential block-

ages to their progress. Lastly, they were asked to indicate how they would measure the impact of their efforts and to say what a resolution to the original problem would look like. For purposes of this report, the detailed presentations made on the day are not included as they are recorded by the partner organisations. However, the overall thematic areas common to many of the presentations are summarised below.

- Incomplete infrastructure projects that often attract criminal elements and acts of vandalism.
- Incomplete and neglected roads resulting in emergency medical and policing services being unable to access villages.
- Opacity in recruitment process of municipalities leading to perceptions of nepotism and bribery in return for employment.
- Government housing and land allocation processes not being transparent and clear. Failure to uphold the principle of public consultation by municipalities.
- Perceived irregularities associated with social services such as government-issued monthly grants.
- Fraud and extortion allegations in insurance sector and social clubs.
- Climate impact challenges faced by village communities due to municipalities not mitigating against climate change on ecosystems and vegetation that provides grazing land for livestock.

CBOs were encouraged to review and refine their proposals further and submit them by the end of May. Walton called on them to ensure that the proposals are of the standard of the value of the macro grant of R150 000 for each organisation.



The proposals must reflect clear and realistic plans that show how the CBOs will allocate resources towards impactful initiatives in their communities. Seth Tladi, the programme director for SCAT, closed off the day's proceedings by reiterating Walton's points.



Just listening to you guys, it's amazing that a lot of thought processes went into the proposals. Although some of us have to go back to the drawing board, really good groundwork has been done.

He read the project concept note originally formulated in the early stages of the SAAC in early 2024 to remind the participants of the motivation for going into the next phase. The SAAC started off with three outputs, Tladi added, that declared that:

- The project coordinators would identify 20 CBOs based in the Eastern Cape to participate in the project and to be empowered to carry out anti-corruption work in their communities
- Ten of them would be awarded micro grants for small anti-corruption activities within their communities in the first phase of the project.
- There would be a design of the digital tracking

tool and the corruption risk assessment tool that will soon come into effect.

"Broadly speaking, we are delivering on the main outputs of the project and it is something we need to commend ourselves on."

The baseline assessment at the beginning of the project informed the approach of CBB1, and the feedback from that informed how we design the second one.

"My advice is for you all to go back to your proposals and prioritise activities. You can't do everything, so prioritise high-impact activities. Also prioritise replicable activities, something that we can do in one village and afterwards do in others."

Tladi reflected on the feedback from the different organisations, noting that a common message is that communities are ready to confront corruption, but are failed by systems to hold the public sector accountable.

"This project is aimed at empowering our communities to be able to make sure that these systems that are out of reach, unresponsive, are able to deliver on what they were meant to."

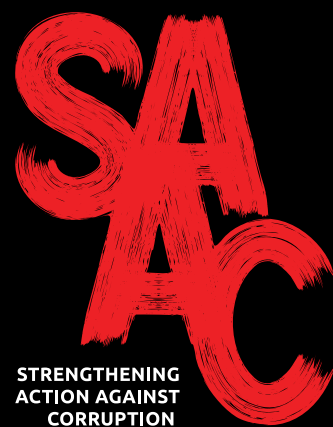


PARTICIPANTS OF THE SECOND CBB OF THE SAAC TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO POSE FOR A GROUP PHOTOGRAPH OUTSIDE THE WORKSHOP VENUE

TERMINOLOGY

GLOSSARY OF TERMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

CBB	Corruption busting bootcamp
CBO	Community-based organisation
COORDINATORS	Representatives of participating CBOs
CW	Corruption Watch
NPA	National Prosecuting Authority
PUBLIC PROTECTOR	Public Protector of South Africa
SAAC	Strengthening Action Against Corruption
SCAT	Social Change Assistance Trust
SIU	Special Investigating Unit
YAFA	Youth Ambassadors for Accountability



www.corruptionwatch.org.za/strengthening-action-against-corruption-saac/



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the European Union



SOCIAL CHANGE
ASSISTANCE TRUST



TRANSPARENCY
INTERNATIONAL
the global coalition against corruption