"No one is born a good citizen; no nation is born a democracy. Rather, both are processes that continue to evolve over a lifetime. Young people must be included from birth. A society that cuts itself off from its youth severs its lifeline; it is condemned to bleed to death. You are the guardians of that lifeline. Nurture it; develop it; give it strength."

Koffi Anan

Introduction and Background

The Ahmed Kathrada Foundation's Youth Activism Programme, in partnership with GIZ South Africa's Transparency, Integrity and Accountability Programme (TIP), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), and the National Anti-Corruption Advisory Council (NACAC) hosted a two day National Youth Dialogue on Anti-Corruption on the 16th and 17th of November at Birchwood Hotel and OR Tambo International Conference Centre. This conference was a lead-up event to the National Dialogue on Anti-Corruption in December where stakeholders from around the country and from all walks of life will converge to validate the NACAC's proposals on anti-corruption reform. This event was dedicated to hearing and acknowledging the voices of the youth, and the outcomes of this event are to be presented at that National platform.

Problem Statement

Since the adoption of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy (NACS), there have been some important developments. The NACAC has been appointed by the President with the mandate of to advising the President on the implementation of the NACS as well as the recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry into State Capture. In addition, they are tasked with hosting an annual 'National Summit' on the theme of anti-corruption.

However, observations have been made, thus far, of the absence of youth voices in discussions with the NACAC, except in relation to youth as a target audience for communications work. It is an unfortunate truth that youth have not been consulted in the development of the NACS, even though the consequences of today's corruption will be felt in years to come. That means that there may be elements of the NACS that could impact young people. There also may be factors and issues that affect youth that have not been considered. Thus, as the momentum and energy to fight corruption continues to build in South Africa, it was essential to room for youth to be part of the important conversations and decisions that will be made on South Africa's anti-corruption architecture and programmes that are intended to be executed in the near future. This time around, the National Anti-Corruption Advisory Council wants to ensure that the youth voice is heard, that inputs from the youth are included and that the creativity and ideas of young people are harnessed.
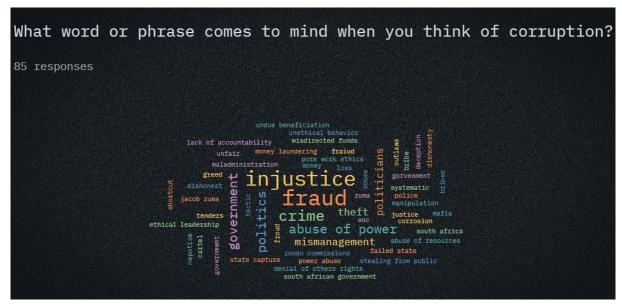
Thus theYouth Activism Programme (YAP), a flagship programme of the Ahmed Kathrada Foundation (AKF), will run a longer-term programme on anti-corruption and accountability. This program is designed to strengthen and deepen democracy through the promotion of active citizenship amongst organised youth clubs in various communities across the province of Gauteng and with the broader National Youth Coalition Network. The Programme adopts a community-based membership and theory of change model that centers on creating and developing an active citizenry as a mechanism to deepen democracy and give voice (and skills and capacity) to young people for constructive engagement and challenging contemporary societal challenges.
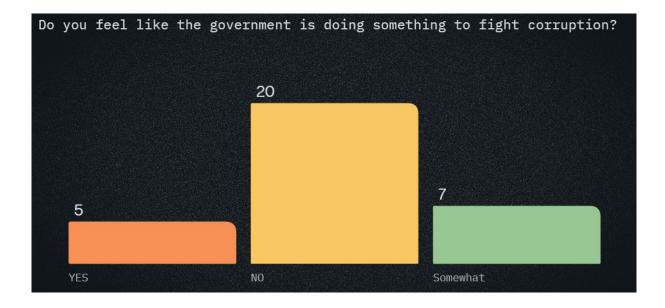
National Youth Dialogue on Anti-Corruption Outcomes
The event convened over 65 youth persons from around the Gauteng province. There were introductory presentations from Sabeehah Motala from TIP who gave a welcome, framing and context of the event.

This was followed by a Mentimenter exercise that was facilitated by Esihle Dube from TIP and Moeketsi Kaohelo from the National Youth Council. Given that the NACS adopts a whole-of-government, whole-of-society approach, the Mentimeter sought to gather the youth's perspectives on the role of organized business (private sector), civil

society, and the youth themselves in fighting corruption. However, first they had to get a sense of their understanding of corruption and on whether they feel like the government is doing something to fight corruption. These were some of the findings:

What can organised business (private sector) do to fight corruption?

Be compliant with anti-corruption laws and policies!

Act with transparency

Build coalition with the community on the ground to validate efforts against corruption

comply with csi + csr

Skills development in the community and world issues uplifting

Invest in anti.corruption initiatives

Be transparent...

Seeing the accused that are foung guilty being sent to prison

Job creation

invest in intel

Normalise the use of BlockChain Tech to help make the flow of money more Transparent and Accountable

be accountable

Fight change

Skills development and implementation

Hold the accountable for the misconduct

Implement stringent methods to hold government accountable and ensuring the culprits pay for their actions

They can organise programs where they involve youth and also empower them and then talk with the government to do advocacy for people so that they will know what is needed by people

Support government

Have strict policies on issues of corruption.

Corruption is taking place in private sector aswell. They cant do much because they participate in the corruption in the country.

1. Create awareness 2. Hold people who participate in corruption accountable

humanise cooparations again - all they care about is revenue

Be more inclusive when holding anti corruption campaigns.Creat more job opportunity in the sector as I believe corruption also starts from poverty

They must actively engage in strategies to fight corruption from their side because often they are the corruptors, which is not spoken about enough.

Practise a High Standard themselves, which they dont. Fund initiatives to fight corruption, as GTZ is doing.

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Be responsible

Hold people accountable Strengthen integrations leadership Involved ethical trainings

Hold those who are corrupt accountable

Invest more on their safety and support the community in fitting corruption.

Be leaders in the business space and allow for more room for small businesses and society to grow with them and not just have a monopoly over the economic sector. Corruption stems from what we see.

Teach the youth the advantages of anti corruption, and the disadvantages of corruption in that case we will have less corruption in the next coming generation

Promote ethical behavior. Provide support to people

Not add to the corruption (being partners in corruption, allowing it to become normalised in society). Change narratives/mindsets to make ethical behavior key.

What they can do i think they should start working with the government by adding job opportunities for people so that unemployment rate be solved

Start with reporting themselves for corruption

Normalise ethical standards and promote them in their general business practice

Help the justice system be strong and firm. Provide training and educational workshops on right and responsibilities.

What can civil society do to fight corruption?

Report Corruption activities

whistle blow!

Be united

Educate and advocate.

Work with all stakeholders and hold both government and private sector accountable through activism!

Discourage , corrupt people , report corrupt cases

Report on activities of corruption

Use the available spaces to hold our leaders accountable to the promises they made when we voted for them.

Hold government accountable

Report those who are corrupt and hold them accountable

Create a greater support system

Civil society should be in the forefront in protecting wistleblowers and keep corrupt officials to account.

To not allow to the corrupt leader

Highlight institutions and means available to the public to Report and Flag Corrupt activities in their communities

Practice fairness

Have organisations that has no fear or favour to no one when it comes to accountability towards government

Provide people with more education and provide safety skills

Change the constitution to uplift the black community in democracy

Align with Trusts, Foundation and relevant Conscientious bodies to support the anti corruption efforts as a collective utilising law and constitution as a main barometer

unite campaigns on corruption not work in silos as a sector

Whistle blow

Speak out, question Be corageous in the face of corrup leaders at all levels. Demand transparency and accountability from leaders. Expose corrup practises. Avoid being corrupted

Appreciate whistle blowers

What they can do they should start by being Transparent and face the truth they should mobalise more Leadership in every province and face the government all political parties should do they duties

Lobby to hold State and private actors to account. Promote a new culture of ethical promotion and accountability.

try to not enable corrupt activities

Form coalition with all conscientious bodies, institution and community using the law and constitution as a barometer

Report especially IDP municipal core of the corruption

Ensure that communities are educated on these issues and empowered in a safe environment to voice out any issues around corruption.

Report corruption

Trouble shoot where there's a gap that can open a window for corruption Engage in structures to combating corruption

Continue with the CPF which is crime prevention forum and also work with the law enforcement because I believe the are still good police

Practice what we preach.

Stop participating in corruption. Stop normalizing corruption

Educate and create awareness to my peers about corruption

Be a person of integrity. Have ethical behaviors in order to educate others

What can you do to fight corruption?

Become the president of South Africa.

Dont pay for 'coldrinks' 👀

Not partake in corrupt activities and report corruption

speak about it

Be a responsible citizen

Report and live a corruption free life. One cant accuse people of corruption when they corrupt themselves

Speak out. Engage and stand for what is right .

Contribute to forums like this and support the work of organisations already spearheading this work. Duplicating efforts is counter productive

Report it

raise aw

SPEAK UP!

Firstly not engage in it, report those who does, join and motivate anti corruption campaignes

Pratice what we preach.

Ethically conduct myself in all aspects

Speak out Mobilise against corruption. Be transparent in all ways

Report corruption , and make sure im not corrupt to

Encourage people to parcitipate in voting wisely, keeping in mind the choice doesn't only affect current generation.

Teach my community people what I've learnt on the programs that I attend so that we can be united and fight against corruption

Report any illegal activity going hand in hand with corruption and do follow ups oanonymously so (wouldnt want to find myself dead)

Take accountability for my corrupt actions , educate young ones the good in anti corrupt

Start getting rid of those who are corrupt and old people who are in power...YOUNG PEOPLE MUST LEAD!!

Engage youth on preventative measures to fight corruption from an early age and advocate for teaching of ethics from primary school. Ethics are central to fighting corruption

Pay less cooldrink. Engage with my circle on the topic maybe pay my traffic fines?

Out with the old in with the youth.	I will definitely start by surrounding myself with people who are on a same page with me and stick together to fight it because i wont fight it on my own
By being more active and participate more individually so can protect our community	join anti corruption movement
Ethics Account to action	Fight! Fight! Fight! Till the last breath
More every day candy make difarents	Play a role in intiatives taking place already
Be accountable and live with integrity	Have integrity
	Never participate in corrupt practises

Introduction to the National Anti-Corruption Strategy

This session was facilitated by Councilor Nkosana Dolopi from the NACAC who provided the background of the NACS that led to the establishment of the NACAC. He further provided overview of who the NACAC are, their mandate, including their advisory role on the implementation of the NACS, in strengthening SA's anti-corruption architecture and engaging citizens on what can be done to combat corruption through anti-corruption summits as well as advising the president on the implementation of the recommendations from the Zondo Commission.

To do this, the NACS established sub-committees that are: institutional architecture, legislative reform, communication and engagement, and whistleblowing on public procurement and monitoring and evaluation. After some time, this was reconstituted, and it was decided that there is a need for three sub-committees. In these sub-committees, there is one that deals with the establishment of the office of public integrity, law enforcement agencies and then communication. The approach that is adopted by the NACAC emphasizes prevention rather than adaptation as the main way to address corruption which highlights the need for behaviour change, consciousness, building a movement, education, and awareness.

As a result, the current overall recommendation of the NACAC to the President is the establishment of a Chapter 9 institution, called the Office of Public Integrity (OPI),

particularly because there is a view that the fight against corruption must have a dedicated kind of effort and institution. The OPI, therefore, would be an institution designed to address and fight against corruption and would work closely with law enforcement agencies. It would also serve as an advisory body to the law enforcement agents.

Thus, the NACAC made a call to encourage young people to play an active role in the fight against corruption as leaders of tomorrow. This is particularly because when government and public institutions fail because of corruption, it affects young people's everyday lives in very personal ways. Thus, young people were asked to personalize politics and take an active role in shifting the public narratives about themselves being removed from it, they were encouraged to rise and mobilize themselves in the fight against corruption in the country and in their societies. They were also consulted on the recommendations of the establishment of the OPI by the NACAC, specifically to provide their reflections on the OPI concept, as it relates to its function, governance, resources it would require to function well and institutions it could collaborate with.

Youth Feedback: The Social Norms of Corruption and Questions on the OPI
Social Norms Leading to Corruption:

- Capitalist System and Corruption- It was argued that capitalism inherently promotes corruption due to its emphasis on wealth accumulation and exploitation of labor. The high societal standards set by capitalism create a drive for material success, leading some, especially the historically disadvantaged, to resort to corruption in an attempt to "catch up."
- Perception of Corruption Among Disadvantaged Groups- Due to historical inequality, black people are often seen as more corrupt because they strive to achieve the artificial standards of wealth and success established by those who own the means of production.
- Service Delivery and Corruption of Convenience: Slow and inefficient service delivery systems were highlighted as a cause of "corruption of convenience," where people resort to bribery to expedite processes.

Questions Raised by Young People:

- Integrity in Public Sector Roles: "*How do we restore integrity and accountability in sectors like the police, where once-respected roles are now viewed with disgrace?*"

- Youth, Technology, and Whistleblowing: "*How can the youth be protected when using technology to combat corruption, given the current threats to whistleblowers? Does the council have any structural or tangible advisory measures in place to address this issue?*"

- Chapter 9 Institution Criteria: "*Regarding your recommendation for a Chapter 9 institution to address corruption, what criteria would ensure its integrity, especially considering concerns around cadre deployment and potential corruption within the institution itself?*"

- Accountability and Institutional Proliferation: "*There's concern about avoiding accountability by creating multiple institutions. How would a proposed anti-corruption Chapter 9 institution differ from existing bodies like the Public Protector? What powers or resources would it need, and is there consideration for a specialized anti-corruption court, similar to those in Botswana, Cameroon, and Kenya?*"

Youth reflections on the OPI:

What does a well-functioning OPI look like?

1. Meets its objective, investigate corruption, carries out effective/ informative awareness on broader social media (accessible), protection of whistleblowers for effective reporting, clearly defined criteria of what it constitutes or who sits in OPI.
2. Well-coordinated, Well-funded, Capacitated expertise, Inclusive, Independent
3. The OPI must be accessible and there should be a coalition between it and civil society. It must formulate structures, policies that suit society at large
4. Must have a clear mandate
5. Should be accountable, have integrity and be transparent
6. A well-functioning OPI that involves a youth directorate

How should it be governed?

1. Independent (public call for application, transparent and free from government influences), no cadre deployment, short-term contracts (rotational power), and is answerable to the judiciary and the NPA
2. It should be governed by parliament but should act independently
3. Proactive approach to systemic corruption, investigative autonomy, governance of code of ethics, framework for collaboration with SCOPA
4. Independent from the state, employed by NACAC based on qualifications
5. Should be governed with transparency: weekly gazettes or public newspapers to the communities

What resources does it need?
1. CARA model of funding- GBV recovery, Rotary club model- Volunteers
2. Strictly chapter 9 institutions
3. 60% of legal independent practitioners

Which institutions does it need to collaborate with?
1. Churches, Businesses, CSO, Other existing Chapter 9 institutions
2. Law enforcement agencies, civil society, private sector, government
3. SIS, NPA, SCOPA and civil society
4. Multi-stakeholder partnership. The public protector (sub/ wing structure)
5. CSOs, government leaders, community leaders, legal fraternity, business, and SIU to prevent capture of the office.

Which key areas should OPI focus on?
1. Public procurement
2. Oversight of public institutions including employment into those institutions
3. Research
4. Investigations
5. Advocacy, public awareness and education
6. Supporting community organizing against corruption
7. Education, health, and law enforcement
8. Systematic corruption not dealt with by other institutions
9. Establishment of formalized procedures with state institutions that combat corruption/ maladministration

10. Collaborating with AG in monitoring the implementation of mandatory improvements as per plans

11. Prosecution on Zondo Commission/new crimes

How can OPI include youth in its design so that youth issues are not excluded?

1. Capacitation, consultation, 50%+ youth representation, cultural restructuring, directory for submissions for recommendation

2. Involving youth in the sub-committee, speak to issues that affect youth, corruption awareness at a basic education level

3. Including the youth for brainstorming fresh ideas, choosing a proper candidate to lead the rest of the youth and they must be a certain age. The candidate must be responsible, accountable and reliable with reliable resources

4. Youth engagement at grassroots levels, communication language is key, including the youth from inception and logo design or art competition

5. Employ youth, amplify youth voices on anti-corruption, target youth where they are through edutainment (poems, sketches, sports events and youth imbizos)

What are normalized behaviours among youth that contribute to corruption?

1. Lack of information, poor participation, lack of pursuit to education

2. Drunk driving, cheating, lying/ dishonesty, not whistleblowing, modelling bad behaviour/ examples (youth looking up to corrupt politicians)

3. Lack of accountability (culture), being socialized into challenging authorities, abuse (substance, physical and GBV), lack of knowledge (living according to your own understanding), idolizing corrupt authorities

4. Skhothane culture, peer pressure, societal normalization of corruption, corruption on a macro-level not micro as well as nepotism

5. Bribing of public servants, popularism, instant gratification (short cut), substance abuse or underage drinking and irresponsible drinking, nepotism, ignorance (looking away)

6. Paying cooldrink (complacency), fake IDs for clubs, peer pressure, soft life, apathetic, and turning a blind eye.

How can youth address these behaviours

1. Introduction to civic education.

2. Raise awareness, social media, making sure everyone is valid.

3. By engaging in skills programmes within schools, using technology to your advantage (responsible use of the internet), after-school programmes and exploring talent, accepting accountability and responsibility at all spheres of social institutions.

4. Re-wiring the mind and enhanced emphasis on ethics.

5. Do not participate in corruption, do your research (judge on actions), conscientise and moral behaviour, putting pressure on the government for efficient and effective service delivery, rehabilitation centres must offer skills development programmes

6. Normalising inclusivity throughout processes (seat at the table), instilling new/ positive values (curriculum), socio-economic upliftment, normalising whistleblowing (make it valuable), and active citizenry

How can OPI work with youth to address them?
1. Find information that should be fun and attractive to the eye, OPI must include the youth in their council

2. Education on types of corruption, awareness/ support on reporting, relate to youth (social media etc)

3. It needs to provide a safe space for young people to engage freely in civic spaces, funding students that actually cannot afford and fund their studies, monitoring systems that lead to corruption, de-normalising the culture of corruption among systems

4. Establish youth advisory board, youth led campaigns, customized training/ services aimed at operationalizing the role of youth in implementation

5. Co-create for leadership with integrity using government reward program, workshops (awareness campaigns) like school roadshows and hosting training programs on how people should do research (specifics) and creating a safe space for youth to voice out their issues (youth desk, fast tracking and creating an information sit on integrity)

6. Employ them and take into consideration that they might be experienced, active social media platforms, collaboration with dept that deals with youth (eg DBE), youth programmes and take recommendations from youth (have a platform for submissions)

7. OPI needs to provide a safe space for the youth in order to engage freely in civil society

Whistleblowing: Changing the Culture

The issue of whistleblowing in South Africa is particularly a sensitive topic that is also perceived negatively because it is often viewed as a significant risk to one's safety. Thus, as part of its mandate, NACAC recommended to the President an implementation of robust protective measures for Whistleblowers as highlighted in the Zondo Commission's recommendations. In addition to protection, NACAC has proposed the establishment of a dedicated, well-funded whistleblowing unit under the OPI that would address not only the safety of the whistleblowers but also the broader impact on their loved ones. This is particularly because threats extend beyond the individual who exposes corruption to their family members, spouses, children, and even extended relatives. Therefore, there is a need for a unit to consider comprehensive protection strategies to safeguard whistleblowers.

Another important aspect that the NACAC emphasizes is finding a balance between offering financial rewards and fostering a sense of public duty. While financial incentives are necessary to encourage whistleblowers, they have argued that there should not be an overemphasis on monetary rewards. Instead, the focus should remain on the collective responsibility to eradicate corruption for the greater good of society. The ultimate goal is to cultivate a culture where individuals are motivated not just by financial gain but by a shared commitment to protecting the country from corruption, regardless of personal benefit.

Thus, as part of this broader effort, the NACAC also actively consulted with youth on how to shift the negative perceptions surrounding whistleblowers and promote a culture of whistleblowing as well as their protection. This was to reshape public attitudes, particularly among youth by emphasizing the important role whistleblowers play in safeguarding democracy and integrity. This was done through a video screening of *Politically Aweh's* video on Whistleblowing. The aim of this video was to change culture, bring about a shift in the views that people hold against Whistleblowers to foster a culture where whistleblowers are seen as defenders of justice, ultimately encouraging more people to step forward and contribute to the fight against corruption.

This was done through the combination of journalism, comedy and existing research on Whistleblowers and the session was facilitated by Karabo Makwela from GIZ-TIP.

Feedback from the Youth Regarding Changing the Culture around Whistleblowers:

- The youth expressed that whistleblowing in South Africa carries a deeply negative stigma, often associated with terms like *impimpi* or spy, which deters people from coming forward. They highlighted the reality that whistleblowers are frequently targeted and even killed, making it a high-risk action. This fear is compounded by the lack of trust in existing protection channels, as institutions like the police or senior government officials are often seen as compromised. They also pointed to the case of Babita Deokaran as a tragic example of how dangerous whistleblowing can be, which emphasized how there's currently no guaranteed safe space for whistleblowers. Additionally, they suggested that the term "whistleblower" itself is problematic, evoking trauma and fear. Instead, they proposed rebranding whistleblowers as "human rights defenders" or "influencers of change" to create a more positive and empowering image. This, they believe, could help shift the narrative and encourage more people to report wrongdoing without fear of stigma or retaliation.

- One perspective shared was that the way society views whistleblowers needs a complete overhaul. Instead of seeing them as mere informants, there needs to be recognition of their critical role in exposing corruption and holding power to account. Without their courage, there would be no commissions of inquiry or advisory panels addressing corruption today. Whistleblowers risk their lives and livelihoods daily, facing demotion, dismissal, and even death, yet their contributions often go unrecognized or undervalued. A pressing concern raised was the immediate danger whistleblowers face while legislative processes and discussions about their protection continue. In light of this, it was suggested that existing resources, such as funds from confiscated criminal assets, could be repurposed to provide urgent support. This support could cover essential needs like psychosocial assistance, legal representation, and financial aid, ensuring whistleblowers have the protection they need now, rather than waiting for future policy changes.

- Another insightful perspective highlighted the transformative power of digital audio-visual media in shaping societal opinions and driving conversations. This medium is seen as a powerful tool for shifting public narratives in ways that traditional reports and documents often cannot. The concern raised was that while conferences like this produce detailed reports and physical documents, these outcomes are unlikely to reach or resonate with the average citizen. Instead, there is a call to leverage engaging, relatable content that ordinary people can connect with. The suggestion was to explore how creative media, like short films, podcasts, or social media videos, could be used to distill complex issues into accessible formats. This approach would ensure that the insights and outcomes of discussions are not confined to formal spaces but are translated into media that can inspire awareness and action in broader society.

- Ther was another insightful point about the need to integrate technology into whistleblower protection. Particularly a need to have a widely accessible platform where whistleblowers can securely log information, upload documents, and maintain their anonymity. It was emphasized that, in a post-modern era, such digital solutions should be part of the conversation

Corruption Watch Youth Activism Toolkit:

Corruption Watch launched an anti-corruption toolkit accompanied by an innovative board game called Bribes and Whistles. The toolkit was developed to empower young people to actively participate in the fight against corruption by providing essential resources, information, and strategies. It offers multiple definitions of corruption, drawing from Corruption Watch, Transparency International, and South African legal frameworks to ensure that young people understand corruption from various perspectives. The toolkit highlights key forms of corruption affecting youth, such as bribery, sextortion, and employment irregularities, while also addressing the broader impacts on education, economic opportunities, and public trust.

Additionally, the toolkit provides practical steps for young people to take action, including raising public awareness, holding leaders accountable, engaging with their communities, and using social media to promote transparency. It also outlines the importance of reporting corruption through established channels like the South African Police Service, the Office of the Public Protector, and various civil society

organizations, while emphasizing the need for whistleblower protection. A facilitator guide is included to support trainers who are conducting workshops with youth organizations to ensure that the material is effectively communicated.

To complement the toolkit, Corruption Watch designed Bribes and Whistles, a board game aimed at making learning about corruption interactive and engaging. The game encourages players to navigate ethical dilemmas and complex situations, that foster critical thinking and ethical decision-making. This game was developed through a collaborative process that involves Corruption Watch staff, and the game draws inspiration from Snakes and Ladders and Bad People, adapted to focus on corruption-related scenarios. The game is intended to be made publicly available after further testing.

Feedback from the Youth:

- In response to the launch of the toolkit and the accompanying Bribes and Whistles game, the value of integrating this initiative into broader societal efforts to combat corruption was emphasized. It was suggested that, rather than focusing solely on establishing a Chapter 9 institution dedicated to corruption awareness, initiatives like this toolkit could effectively raise awareness at the community level. This would resonate with young people by presenting corruption in a way that is relatable and easy to engage with- encouraging proactive participation. The potential of incorporating anti-corruption education into the school curriculum, particularly through the Life Orientation learning area was highlighted. There was a recognition that was made that Life Orientation offers an interactive platform that encourages students to actively engage and reflect on societal issues. Therefore, integrating the game into this subject could foster a deeper understanding of corruption from a young age to build awareness progressively from primary school through matric. They suggested that lobbying for this integration at a national level could significantly contribute to early conscientization, that would shape a generation of young people to be more attuned to ethical decision-making and civic responsibility.

Documentary Screening (Rising Voices)

In the evening of Day1, the African Women Against Corruption Network's documentary on sexual corruption was screened. *Rising Voices: Unmasking Sexual Corruption in South Africa* shares stories of survivors of sexual corruption, examines the legal deficiencies in South Africa's legal landscape and discusses the need to tackle the issue. Following the screening there was a short discussion where participants in the room expressed that they knew of this happening, that there was a need to raise awareness further, that there is also a need to create safe spaces for men to talk about this happening to them as well.

DAY 2

The socio-economic impact of corruption

A presentation was delivered by Defend Our Democracy to highlight the socio-economic impacts of corruption in South Africa. It focused on the severe consequences of corruption and state capture, particularly how they have deeply affected communities and weakened public trust in institutions. The presentation discussed the role of corruption networks in both the public and private sectors, linking them to politically motivated crimes, such as the murders of whistleblowers Babita Deokaran and Philemon Ngwenya, who exposed fraudulent activities. High-profile scandals, like the VBS Mutual Bank collapse and the misuse of public funds in the Vrede Dairy Farm project, were used to illustrate the devastating effects of corruption on both financial stability and community development.

The presentation also shed light on the personal costs faced by whistleblowers, who often endure job loss, mental health struggles, and social isolation, making it difficult for others to come forward. Despite these challenges, this presentation emphasized that progress is possible through collective action and a strong call for ongoing activism, policy reform, and collective efforts to hold leaders accountable, prevent corrupt individuals from returning to power, and a need to build a culture of integrity and transparency was made.

Feedback:

- Is privatization, particularly in the local government space, sometimes driven by corruption? Specifically, could excessive corruption on a large-scale prompt multi-stakeholder engagement to seek alternatives, such as privatization, to 'save' municipalities? Does the entry of the private sector lead to improvements? And would you say that privatization in local government is a byproduct of corruption, or does corruption sometimes stem from privatization?

- Another point raised highlighted the concerns about the narrow focus on the Guptas in discussions of state capture, suggesting that corruption in South Africa is more deeply rooted and systemic. The speaker emphasizes the need for a holistic approach to corruption that includes historical contracts,

monopolistic influence, and broader structural issues, rather than targeting specific individuals or groups. This perspective calls for an objective, informed analysis of corruption to avoid bias and oversimplification.

Youth-Participation on implementation of various pillars in the NACS

The youth were split into groups, and they were allocated a specific pillar in the NACS to discuss and unpack. The point was to get the youths input on how to best implement the NACS and some of the strategies attached to it. Below is the feedback received from different groups:

Group 7

Open public procurement (Pillar 4)

1. Group 7 stated that we do not need a new public procurement system instead we should aim for uniformity between the PFMA and MFMA, so we can standardize them. Implement ONE policy counter; Absolute power equals to abuse of power.
2. The PFMA and MFMA could be administered differently, yet uniformity will improve the current system.
3. M & E system/ implement robust M & E system
4. Goods and services should have a standardizedthreshold/mark ups of procurement or pricing
5. Abuse of deviations: emergencies used as an excuse to deviate (i.e. Covid-19) solution. Regulatory body for procurement all together
6. Platform where public can access and be exposed to the adjudication of big tenders. Who gets them and why equals to encourage transparency.
7. Companies that do not deliver goods and services on previous or existing tenders must be disbarred which equals to remove from service provider list
8. Phased approach: e.g. Phase 1: Deliverables presented before we pay. Follow up on progress (support SMMEs) so that they are not excluded.
9. Scrutinise contracts: e.g. How catering companies bidding for construction tender.

Group 6 (Pillar 3)

What can we do to hold those involved in corruption accountable?

1. Educate ourselves/ communities about existing accountability mechanisms

Political	Legal
Mampara; Name and shame list of politicians currently charged.	Establishment of accountability framework that links communities to accountability mechanisms and institutions
Corrupt politicians should be made individually liable for any losses	Corrupt officials should be made individually liable for any losses
Pressure to implement the Zondo Commissions	

2. Introduce further accountability mechanisms
3. Restraint of trade agreements against senior civil servants and politicians @ all levels of government in trading with the state.
4. Introduce a public referendum mechanism that triggers a legislature sitting to remove officials (requires 2/3rds of residence to trigger)
5. New legislation that bars corruption charged and convicted individuals from holding public offices
6. Special judicial court to expedite corruption cases

Group 5 (Pillar 1)
What is our plan for oversight of corruption in our communities?

1. External/ auditing that encourages or fosters public participation and community insight- be transparent to the public.
2. Bring back imbizo- meaningful engagement.
3. Involve youth and local individuals in mayoral office and other community-based councils (someone monitor the councils)
4. Identify role-players -community organisations, churches, schools/ broaden scope of focus to be wider than just municipalities
5. Building accountability forms: involving business sectors, schools, faith based organisations, NPOs etc. all stakeholders
6. Must be clear tools of monitoring and evaluation
7. Must clearly understand roles of councillors, service delivery

8. Community service delivery accountability and corruption forum

9. Understand that the business sector (white dominated) is also involved in corruption and how to tackle this

10. Rural communities could work with chiefdoms and rural leadership

11. Responsible citizenry- environmental corruption, how to hold corporates and government organisations accountable for pollution and poor service delivery affecting livelihoods

12. Youth must be deeply involved in all anti-corruption structures

Group 2 (Pillar 2)

What plan can we develop to encourage whistleblowing?

1. Develop an online website or directory to report corruption anonymously and leverage the power of AI

2. Strengthen the safety of WB and their loved ones through dedicated state houses and specialized security unit

3. Establishment of a clear policy for anti-corruption, accompanied by a specialized police unit

4. Change language of WB from "impimpi" to for instance change champions to change the negative into positive

5. Bringing the conversation closer to home: Taxi ranks, schools, churches, traditional leaders/ healers and groove

6. Finding innovative ways to educate people about the importance of WB through games

7. Fostering a supportive culture or leadership commitment

8. Strong cancel culture against those accused of corruption should there be merit/ evidence to warrant investigation

9. Capacitation of law enforcement to sensitively deal with cases of corruption

10. Proper protection of identity of WB (particularly the media): accountability from media leaking their identity

11. Encourage change of perception of whistle blowers

12. Communities should apply Ubuntu philosophy

13. Introduce a culture of 'snitching' and protecting

14. Community profiling: local consensus- now your community to accurately monitor service delivery claims

Group 4 (Pillar 4)

How are we to enforce accountability in our government and communities

1. Educate the public on civic matters through IDPs, CBPs, Budget, SIDBS and awareness of access

2. The communities are the government and the government is the community

3. Working together is a must not a choice

4. Communities must hold government accountable because government is placed by the community

5. Public participation: where you reward system of participation and working, lure and bait system, kasi heroes: acknowledgement and valued inputs. Create monitoring and evaluation forums where you track records and follow ups and reviews

6. Effective use of technology including apps, impactful games, toll free lines, social media and informative pop up adds

Group 1 (Pillar 1)

Promote and encourage active citizenry, whistleblowing, integrity and transparency in all spheres of society

The mobilization plan:

1. Education and empowerment around civic issues:
   - Workshops/ webinars
   - Social media
   - Edutainment
   - Civil society organization promotion
   - Public education (schools and universities as well as media)

2. Participation in community projects
   - Kenya case study: project oversight

3. Encourage others to report
   - Know safe whistleblowing channels

4. Develop networks of support

5. Utilise technology

6. Promote a positive culture around anti-corruption work like Integrity Icon awards

7. Incentivise like providing merch (badges), scholarships, fun activities
8. Partner with sports icons
9. Promote ani corruption careers and provide funding
10. Make it relatable to youth and the impact- patriotism (school LO)
11. Connect with international youth organisations and learn best practices

Our Youth anti-corruption Pledge

NOVEMBER 2024

We the youth pledge to:

— UPHOLD INTEGRITY, ETHICS AND TRANSPARENCY IN ALL ASPECTS OF LIFE BY TAKING ON THE INITIATIVES OF THE ANTI-CORRUPTION STRATEGY.

— PROMOTE AND ENCOURAGE ACTIVE CITIZENRY AND SUPPORT WHISTLEBLOWERS.

— TAKE A WHOLE OF SOCIETY APPROACH IN EXERCISING ACCOUNTABILITY AND OVERSIGHT.

— BEING INCLUSIVE IN OUR ACTIVE ENGAGEMENTS IN OUR COMMUNITIES LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND.

— STRIVING TO ALWAYS UNITE AND WORK COLLABORATIVELY FOR A CORRUPTION-FREE SOUTH AFRICA.