



THE WEEKEND READER

"Your Weekly Read on Debt, Development & Socio-Economic Justice"

ZIMCODD & ZACC CO-HOST AFRICAN UNION ANTI-CORRUPTION DAY COMMEMORATIONS IN HARARE

The African Union recognizes 11 July as our annual continental observance of the African Union Anti-Corruption Day. This day is a reflective moment for the continent to look back on our efforts against graft which remains a serious challenge in most nations. The 2024 theme reads, *"Effective Whistleblowers Protection Mechanism: A Critical Tool in the Fight Against Corruption."* Protection of whistleblowers remains a key cog in the fight against graft as it increases the involvement of citizens who remain the most affected by the corrosive socioeconomic effects of corruption on delivery of basic social services such as education, health, housing and employment.

ZIMCODD in conjunction with the Zimbabwe Anti-Corruption Commission (ZACC) cohosted the local observance, kicking off with a branded public march in Harare. The walk, as pictured below, showcased messaging agitating for Protection of Whistleblowers, a call made primarily to our legislature. ZIMCODD further gave solidarity remarks alongside The National Prosecuting Authority, Transparency International Zimbabwe, the Legal Resources Foundation and ZACC.



The procession included students, police, civil society, government officers and other citizens joined in.

Africa loses about \$60 Billion annually to corruption & Illicit Financial Flows¹. This is a significant amount which could go a long way in clearing the debt burden we face of over a trillion dollars.

1. <https://www.transparency.org/en/projects/enforcement-of-african-commitments-against-corruption>

Plugging these leakages takes a concerted effort for which International & Regional instruments subscribed to such as the United Nations Convention Against Corruption provide. As we commemorate this year's occasion, we propose the following recommendations to address corruption;

- Operationalize United Nations Convention Against Corruption.
- Strengthen Accountability institutions such as Parliament, Prosecuting Authorities, Anti-Corruption Commissions and the Police. This will improve oversight of Public Finance Management and use of Africa's Natural resources.
- Synergize anti-corruption efforts to counter cross country/ border graft cartels.
- Politics-Administration dichotomy separation to ensure administrative arms operate without the influence of cartels or the political elite.
- Judiciary independence in countries where it lacks. This is to ensure that those caught on the wrong side of the law are prosecuted.
- Whistle Blower Protection Legislation and mechanisms to encourage citizen surveillance.
- Strengthening legal and regulatory frameworks that ensure punitive measures at country level.
- Adoption of e-governance systems that can track and expose corruption. Limiting human interface also reduces points where corruption can occur. These systems can be imbedded in platforms such as the Africa Continental Free Trade Area to fight dynamic cross-border & tech based corruption.

Opportunities

- 1) Public Engagement Assistant: <https://zw.usembassy.gov/jobs/>
- 2) Media and communications Officer: <https://jobs.oxfam.org.uk/vacancy/media-and-communications-officer-int10520/22326/description/>
- 3) WIPO Young Experts Programme: <https://www.wipo.int/en/web/working-at-wipo/young-experts-program>
- 4) Graduate Intern at Pangaea Zimbabwe: <https://bit.ly/4eZZLQ8>
- 5) EU Youth Empowerment Fund: <https://www.tfaforms.com/5131699>

Are you passionate about Social & Economic Justice?
Do you believe in the movement for equality?

JOIN NOW!

Become a registered member of ZIMCODD today:
<https://rb.gy/ewz45>

Join our Mailing List by sending us your email address to stay caught up on our activities, weekly & monthly reading resources on the Social & Economic justice movement.

SCAN NOW TO BECOME A MEMBER!

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Zimbabwe Commission On Debt And Development
ZIMCODD

#Youth4Integrity pledge

Are you a member of the youth (18-35 years) with a passion for fighting social and economic injustice? Do you want to join the action for Integrity? Do You want to become an Integrity Icon? If your answer to any of these questions is yes, take the pledge today: <https://rb.gy/90gzgx>

Quote of the week: John Maketo

“As we gather today for the African Anti - Corruption Day, we are reaffirming our determination to the fight against corruption, a scourge that’s significantly undermining national development and perpetuating inequality.”

Picture of the week: Participants holding up Whistleblower protection placards at the Anti-Corruption march.

