



ACTIONSA

LET'S
FIX
SOUTH
AFRICA

ANTI-CORRUPTION
BLUEPRINT

Introduction

One of ActionSA's Core Foundational Values is an unwavering respect for the Rule of Law and ethical leadership at all levels of government. Indeed, no country can prosper in a state of anarchy and lawlessness. For South Africa to make progress, we must address the rampant crime, corruption and general criminality.

Fixing South Africa means that we need to end the era of political patronage, cadre-deployment and the looting of public funds.

Instead, we need an ethical, competent and caring government committed to public service with pride. That part is not the ANC.

Accordingly, ActionSA is unapologetic in our view that corruption is Public Enemy Number 1, undermining all the gains we could have made as a society. Corruption diverts funds from service delivery, and enriches the politically connected elite.

To address this, our approach to eradicating corruption is to address the root causes of corruption, and is three-pronged:

- Treating the corrupt as the criminals they are, and making sure they end up in jail and their assets are sold to recoup the loss of looted public funds.
- Putting measures into place to prevent corruption, and
- Eradicating corruption from our society for good through a concerted effort to promote ethical behaviour and change social norms.

Prosecution of the corrupt

- **Forensic and investigative services:** we will establish an independent anti-corruption unit within each of the municipalities we govern, in order to fight corruption proactively and to investigate any suspected corrupt activities that took place under previous administrations. The units will be capacitated by the best and most experienced investigators, forensic accountants and prosecutors. We will ensure the independence of these units and guarantee that they have the ability to identify corruption in the executive, the legislature and the administration. No one should be above the law.
- **Ending the era of impunity:** we will make sufficient resources available to investigate corruption and relentlessly fight to see the corrupt end up in jail. Given the magnitude of the problem, we must dedicate our time and energy to targeting this scourge unapologetically.
- **Asset forfeiture:** we will establish a dedicated team to work with the NPA to fast track the seizure and sale of assets of the corrupt to recover looted municipal funds.
- **Lifestyle audits:** All political office bearers and senior managers, as well as employees working in building plan approvals, supply chain, electricity connections and any other positions where bribes are likely, will be subjected to regular lifestyle audits. This is non-negotiable.
- **Information blitz to encourage whistle-blowers:** upon taking office, we will launch programmes specifically aimed at encouraging municipal officials to provide information on potentially corrupt contracts and activity. This will effectively be a campaign to encourage whistle-blowers to come forward.

- **Cooperation with prosecuting authorities:** we will provide our full cooperation with relevant departments, national agencies and the National Prosecuting Authority to investigate corruption and increase conviction rates.

Protecting whistle-blowers

- **Protecting the anonymity of whistle-blowers:** we will provide opportunities for whistle-blowers to provide information entirely anonymously. This will include using resources that do not track any user data while providing guidance to whistle-blowers on how to further make sure their personal data is protected.
- **Providing close protection when the identity of a whistle-blower is known:** we will adopt municipal policies to ensure that whistle-blowers automatically get access to close protection services from Metro Police while security risk assessments are conducted by SAPS and other relevant bodies.
- **Conduct risk assessments on all cases:** when a whistle-blower comes forward with information, our municipalities will conduct security risk assessments to determine whether those whistle-blowers require additional security for their protection. If so, we will ensure that the appropriate level of protection is afforded.
- **Incentivise whistleblowing:** we will provide financial incentives to all whistle-blowers that provide information that directly contributes to the successful prosecution of corrupt activities.
- **Dedicated capacity in municipalities for dealing with whistle-blowers:** we will ensure that the anti-corruption units have dedicated, specially-trained staff to deal with whistle-blowers to ensure their protection and anonymity.

Preventing corruption

- **Adopting a corruption blacklist:** any service provider, employee or individual found guilty of corruption will be blacklisted from employment or doing business with our governments.
- **Review municipal codes of conduct:** we will review each municipality's code of conduct for employees to ensure that the codes of conduct sufficiently address unethical behaviour and corruption. All employees will be required to sign these codes of conduct, regardless of how long they have been in employment by the municipality.
- **Political office bearers to forego business interests:** all political office bearers in our municipalities will be required to declare their business interests and step down from active involvement from any businesses that might benefit from doing business with the state.
- **Modernising monitoring processes:** we will investigate the use of artificial intelligence and machine learning to improve the early identification of corrupt activities.
- **Transparent processes:** we will open council meetings to the public and ensure that tender processes at the adjudication stage are open. Municipal Public Accounts Committees (MPAC) will also be open to public scrutiny.

- **Partner with NGOs to ensure full transparency:** we will enter into service-level agreements with anti-corruption organisations to increase transparency and allow for objective, external monitoring of potentially corrupt activities.
- **Reform supply chain management processes and practices:** all SCM policies will be reviewed upon taking office, and reforms that focus on transparency, accurate pricing and reliable service provision will be implemented without delay.
- **Full compliance with external auditors:** we will instruct our senior municipal officials to ensure external auditors have direct access to those managers to ensure that any resistance to their auditing work gets escalated to senior municipal management.
- **Corruption risk assessments:** upon taking office, we will launch corruption risk assessments in each of our municipalities to identify weaknesses and areas within their existing Supply Chain Management Policy, especially where corruption is likely.
- **Corruption prevention planning:** we will use the findings of the corruption risk assessments to develop specific corruption prevention plans for each municipality.
- **Process reform:** based on the data gathered from risk assessments, we will reform processes to reduce any processes where bribes are likely by simplifying systems and procedures.
- **Clamp down on non-compliance:** we will not tolerate any non-compliance with financial reporting standards. All managers responsible for financial management in our municipalities will be scrutinised, assessed and required to participate in training to ensure compliance with reporting standards. Refusal will result in dismissal.
- **Adopt amnesty measures for residents:** residents who provide irrefutable proof of bribes paid to municipal officials will not be prosecuted by our municipalities as long as they commit to full disclosure.
- **Including corruption prevention in senior officials' scorecards:** all senior managers will be held accountable for corruption taking place in their departments. This includes compliance with Supply Chain Management Processes.

Ethical leadership and organisational culture shifts

- **Compulsory training:** all municipal officials will be required to complete anti-corruption and ethics training, and such training will be part of new employees' induction process.
- **Comprehensive communication campaigns:** we will launch comprehensive communication campaigns to educate officials and residents of the broader societal impact of corruption. The corrupt must be shamed and treated as outcasts by their communities. Residents need to understand the link between rampant corruption and failed service delivery.
- **Reformed appointment practices:** our appointment processes will include assessing candidates on integrity, and any individual convicted of corruption will be banned from working for our municipalities.