





Corruption and Injustice: Zambia's performance on the 2023 CPI

SUMMARY REPORT

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2023 Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI), released by Transparency International, under the theme "corruption and injustice", reveals that most countries have made little to no progress in tackling public sector corruption in more than a decade. The global trend of weakening justice systems is reducing accountability for public officials, which allows corruption to thrive. This year's CPI shows mixed results in Africa, with significant improvements in a few countries. However, most African Countries showed stagnation, thereby maintaining the region's consistently poor performance at a regional average of 33/100.

For the very first time, in a decade, Zambia has improved its CPI Score. The CPI Score for Zambia has improved from **33/100 in 2022 to 37/100 in 2023**, and consequently improving the Rank by 18 places, from 116/180 Countries in 2022 to **98/180 Countries in 2023**. This improved CPI Score has been attributed to the establishment of the Economic and Financial Crimes Court; the proliferation of Integrity mechanisms such as Integrity Committees, gift policies and service charters; the reduction in the risk of bribery within the business environment; and the reduction in political corruption due to the elevation of the fight against corruption under the UPND Administration

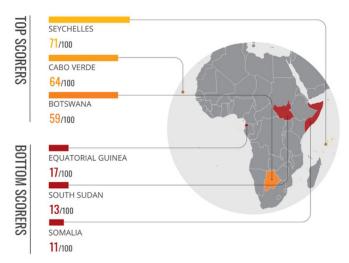
It is however important to note that the 4-point improvement in the CPI Score for Zambia, though unprecedented, does not mean that the prevalence of corruption has reduced to zero. Corruption continues to be endemic in Zambia, as the country remains an under performer in the sub-region. Countries such as Tanzania (40), South Africa (41), Namibia (49), Rwanda (53) and Botswana (59) have all performed better than Zambia in 2023. Zambia should therefore continue on this path of progress by improving the legal, policy and institutional framework; strengthening governance institutions; and implementing corruption prevention measures.

Mr. Maurice K. Nyambe **Executive Director**Transparency International Zambia.

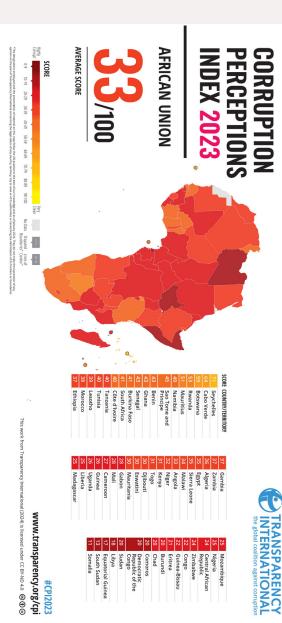
1. GLOBAL AND REGIONAL TRENDS

- Twenty years after the adoption of the **United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC)**, progress in the fight against corruption remains limited. Over two-thirds of the countries covered by the CPI still score below 50 out of 100. While **28** countries have made significant progress over the past decade, another **34** have regressed.
- Since 2018, only **9 countries significantly improved their CPI scores**, including Angola (33), Armenia (47), the Dominican Republic (35), Kuwait (46), the Maldives (39), Moldova (42), Nepal (35), Uzbekistan (33) and Vietnam (41).
- Over the same period, the scores of 12 countries dropped significantly.
 The list includes low and middle-income countries such as El Salvador (31),
 Honduras (23), Liberia (25), Myanmar (20), Nicaragua (17), Sri Lanka (34) and
 Venezuela (13), as well as upper-middle and high-income economies like
 Argentina (37), Austria (71), Poland (54), Turkey (34) and the United Kingdom
 (71).
- 23 countries reached their lowest scores yet this year. They include some high-ranking democracies like Iceland (72), the Netherlands (79), Sweden (82) and the United Kingdom(71), as well as some authoritarian states like Iran (24), Russia (26), Tajikistan (20) and Venezuela (13).
- 17 countries reached their maximum scores yet this year, including Bulgaria (45), Cabo Verde(64), Colombia (40), Estonia (76), Kazakhstan (39), Latvia (60), Moldova (42), Nepal (35), Seychelles (71), Slovakia (54), Tanzania (40), Ukraine (36) and Uzbekistan (33).

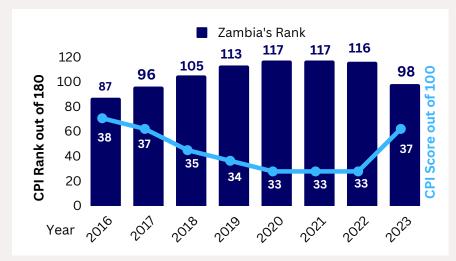




- This year's Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) shows mixed results in
 Africa, with significant improvements in a few countries. However, most
 African countries showed stagnation, thereby maintaining the region's
 consistently poor performance, with an unaltered regional average score of
 33 out of 100 as in previous years. 90% of countries in Sub-Saharan Africa
 scored under 50.
- Despite a regional survey ranking corruption among the most important problems that Africans want their governments to address, the CPI this year shows that countries in Sub-Saharan Africa have a long way to go in their fight against corruption.
- Seychelles (CPI score: 71) remains the top scorer in the region, followed by Cabo Verde (64) and Botswana (59). Equatorial Guinea (17), South Sudan (13) and Somalia (11) perform the lowest with no sign of improvement.
- Cases of corruption and related challenges in justice systems in the region range from reports of bribery to extortion and political interference in justice systems of countries like Nigeria (25), to the dismissal and imprisonment of magistrates accused of corruption in Burundi (20), and all the way to the denial of justice for victims of human rights violations in the Democratic Republic of Congo (20). These examples underscore the justice system's crucial role in safeguarding basic human rights and social equity.

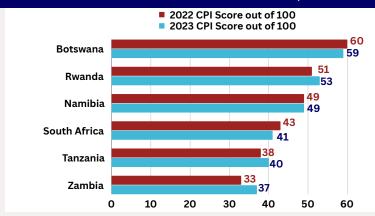


2. ZAMBIA'S PERFORMANCE IN 2023



Zambia has improved its CPI Score from 33/100 in 2022 to 37/100 and consequently improved the Rank by 18 points, from 116/180 countries in 2022 to 98/180 countries in 2023. This means that 97 countries have performed better than Zambia in 2023 as compared to 115 in 2022. This is the very first time that Zambia's CPI score has improved within the past decade.

3. ZAMBIA'S COMPARATIVE PERFORMANCE, 2022-2023



4. ANALYSIS OF DATA SOURCES

DATA SOURCE	2021 CPI	2022 CPI	2023 CPI	CHANGE 2023-2022
The African Development Bank Country Policy and Institutional Assessment	34	34	32	-2
The Bertelsmann Stiftung Transformation Index	21	21	33	+12
Economist Intelligence Unit Country Risk Service Ratings	37	37	37	0
The Global Insight Country Risk Ratings	35	35	47	+12
The PRS Group International Country Risk Guide	32	32	32	0
The World Bank Country Policy and Institutional Assessment	27	27	27	0
World Economic Forum Executive Opinion Survey*	23	30	-	-
World Justice Project Rule of Law Index	35	36	36	0
The Varieties of Democracy Project	49	49	54	+5
Corruption Perceptions Index (Average)	32.5	33.4	37.25	

Note: *Indicates that Data Source generated invalid results for Zambia's CPI Score in 2023.

In the 2023 CPI, the Bertelsmann Stiftung Transformation Index (+12), the Global Insight Country Risk Ratings (+12) and the Varieties of Democracy Project (+5) all indicated improvements, while the African Development Bank Country Policy and Institutional Assessment (-2) indicated a decline. The rest of the other data sources remained constant.

A: TRACKING THE DECLINED DATA SOURCE

• The African Development Bank Country Policy and Institutional Assessment (AfDB-CPIA) assesses the extent to which the executive can be held accountable for its use of funds and the results of its actions; and the extent to which public employees within the executive are required to account for the use of resources, administrative decisions, and results obtained. Both levels of accountability can be enhanced by transparency in decision-making, public audit institutions, access to relevant and timely information, and public and media scrutiny. Therefore, the 2-point decline can be attributed to limited accountability of the executive to oversight institutions and of public employees for their performance due to sluggish follow-up action to audit reports; and limited access of civil society to information on public affairs.

B: TRACKING THE IMPROVED DATA SOURCES

- The Bertelsmann Stiftung Transformation Index assess the extent to which
 public officeholders who abuse their positions are prosecuted or penalized and
 government ability to contain corruption through putting in place integrity
 mechanisms. The 12-point improvement can therefore be attributed to the
 establishment of the Economic and Financial Crimes Court as well as Integrity
 mechanisms such as Integrity Committees, gift policies and service charters
 that have been proliferated in many public institutions.
- The Global Insight Country Risk Ratings assesses the risk of individuals or companies facing bribery or other corrupt practices in carrying out business; from securing major contracts to being allowed to import or export a small product or obtain everyday paperwork. The 12-point improvement is therefore consistent with the 2022 Zambia Bribe Payers Index (ZBPI) Survey which indicated an improvement in the bribery situation in Zambia's public sector.
- The corruption questions in the Varieties of Democracy Project measure the
 pervasive levels of political corruption. The 5-point improvement can therefore
 be attributed to reduced political corruption due to the elevation of the fight
 against corruption under the UPND Administration. This is consistent with TI
 Zambia's Analysis of the Performance of the UPND Administration on their anticorruption and governance promises within the first 24 months of office.

C: TRACKING THE STAGNATED DATA SOURCES

- The Economist Intelligence Unit Country Risk Service Ratings measures various
 aspects of corruption, including the misappropriation of funds by ministers and
 public officials for private and political party purposes and bribery in the public
 procurement process, while the PRS Group International Country Risk Guide
 measures corruption in the form of excessive patronage, nepotism, job
 reservations, exchange of favours, secret party funding and suspiciously close
 ties between politics and business. Therefore, the lack of legislation to regulate
 political party funding has resulted in limited progress in address these aspects
 of corruption.
- The World Justice Project Rule of Law Index focus on the extent to which
 government officials use public office for private gain, within the public health
 system, regulatory agencies, the police, and the courts. These stagnated results
 therefore indicate that there has been limited progress in address corruption
 within these sectors, with the exception of the police service which showed some
 significant improvements in the 2022 ZBPI.
- Note: The World Economic Forum Executive Opinion Survey was conducted between April and August 2023. However, only 91 countries had valid data for the corruption-related questions required for the CPI calculation.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

In lights of the findings of the 2023 CPI for Zambia, TI-Z makes the following recommendations:

- 1. Government should accelerate the implementation of the Access to Information Act No. 24 of 2023, in order to **make justice more transparent** in out-of-court settlements and enforcement, as well as as to make legal procedures and administrative rules more open to public scrutiny.
- 2. Government should take action to limit excessive patronage, nepotism, job reservations, exchange of favours, secret party funding and suspiciously close ties between politics and business, through enacting a law to regulate political party and campaign financing and promoting merit based appointments.
- 3. Government should accelerate corruption prevention efforts such as whistle-blower protection and declaration of assets, interest and liabilities, especially for public officials in the public health system, regulatory agencies, the law enforcement, and the court system.
- 4. Government should expand avenues for accountability in grand corruption in order to further reduce political corruption and the prevalence of bribery. This can be achieved through strengthening the independence of the justice system and promoting cooperation among Law Enforcement Agencies and other stakeholders in the Justice System.