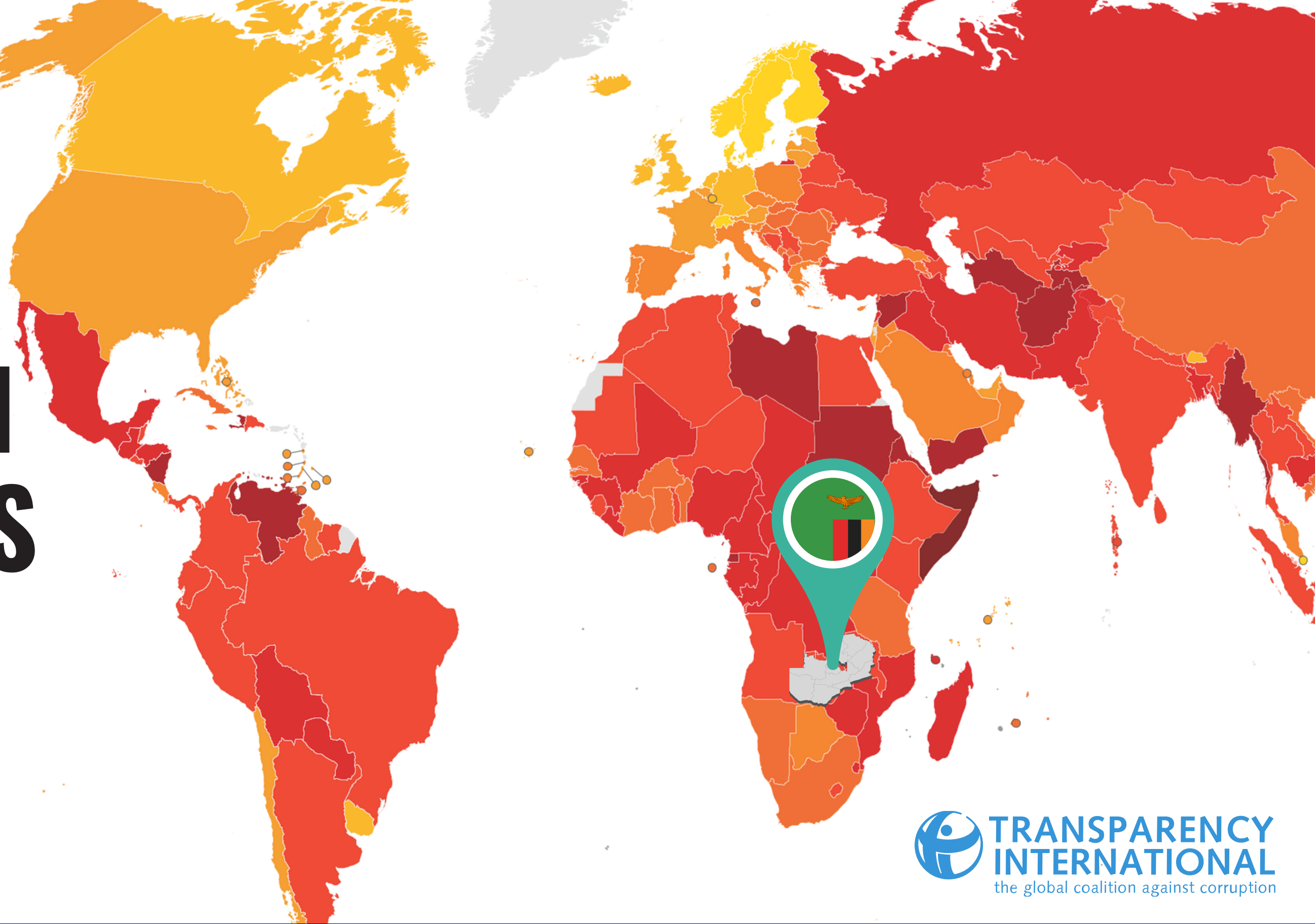




TRANSPARENCY  
INTERNATIONAL  
ZAMBIA

# CORRUPTION PERCEPTIONS INDEX 2025



TRANSPARENCY  
INTERNATIONAL  
the global coalition against corruption

Bright Chizonde & Chimuka Nachibinga  
Transparency International Zambia

10th February 2026  
Taj Pamodzi Hotel  
LUSAKA

# 1. CPI METHODOLOGY

- **1.1 What is the CPI?**
- "The 2025 CPI scores **182 countries and territories** around the world based on perceptions of **public sector corruption**. The scores reflect the views of experts and surveys from businesspeople, and not the general public."
- Note the Following:
  1. The total number of countries and territories assessed is 182, an increase from 180 in 2024, following the inclusion of **Belize** (first time in 2025) and **Brunei Darussalam** (Last qualified in 2020)
  2. The Assessments are based on "**expert perceptions**."
  3. The CPI scope includes only "public sector corruption" and therefore excludes private sector corruption and IFFs.

# 1. CPI METHODOLOGY

- **How is the CPI Calculated?**
- "The CPI is calculated using data from **13 external data sources**, including the World Bank, World Economic Forum, private risk and consulting companies, think tanks and others.
- It is a **weighted average** of the standardized scores from a minimum of 3 out of the 13 different data sources containing specific questions on governance aspects and corruption types.

## 2. GLOBAL TRENDS

- In 2025, the global CPI average dropped **for the first time in more than a decade** to **42/100** from **43/100** in **2024**, indicating that the vast majority of countries are failing to keep corruption under control.
- There is a worrying trend of democracies seeing worsening perceived corruption, including the United States (64), Canada (75) and New Zealand (81).

GLOBAL AVERAGE

---

42/100

## 2. GLOBAL TRENDS

- In 2025, 122 countries scored under **50/100** in the index, and at the same time, the number of countries scoring above **80/100** has shrunk from 12 a decade ago to just 5 in 2025.
- Our analysis of changes in scores since 2012, indicates that only **31** countries out of 181 recorded improved scores, while **50 declined** and **100** stayed the same.

SCORE CHANGES SINCE 2012<sup>7</sup>

**31** COUNTRIES IMPROVED

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**50** COUNTRIES DECLINED

---

**100** COUNTRIES STAYED THE SAME<sup>8</sup>

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# 3. TOP PERFORMERS

## TOP 20 COUNTRIES

**89** • Denmark

**88** • Finland

**84** • Singapore

**81** • New Zealand  
• Norway

**80** • Sweden  
• Switzerland

**78** • Luxembourg  
• Netherlands

0 = Highly corrupt  
100 = Very clean

**77** • Germany  
• Iceland

**76** • Australia  
• Estonia  
• Hong Kong  
• Ireland

**75** • Canada

**73** • Uruguay

**71** • Bhutan  
• Japan

**70** • United Kingdom

- For the eighth time in a row, the highest ranked nation was Denmark, with a score of **89/100**.
- However, only a small group of **15 countries**, mainly in Western Europe and Asia-Pacific, managed to get scores above **75/100**.
- Out of these Top performing countries, only **5** scored above **80/100**.



# 4. BOTTOM PERFORMERS

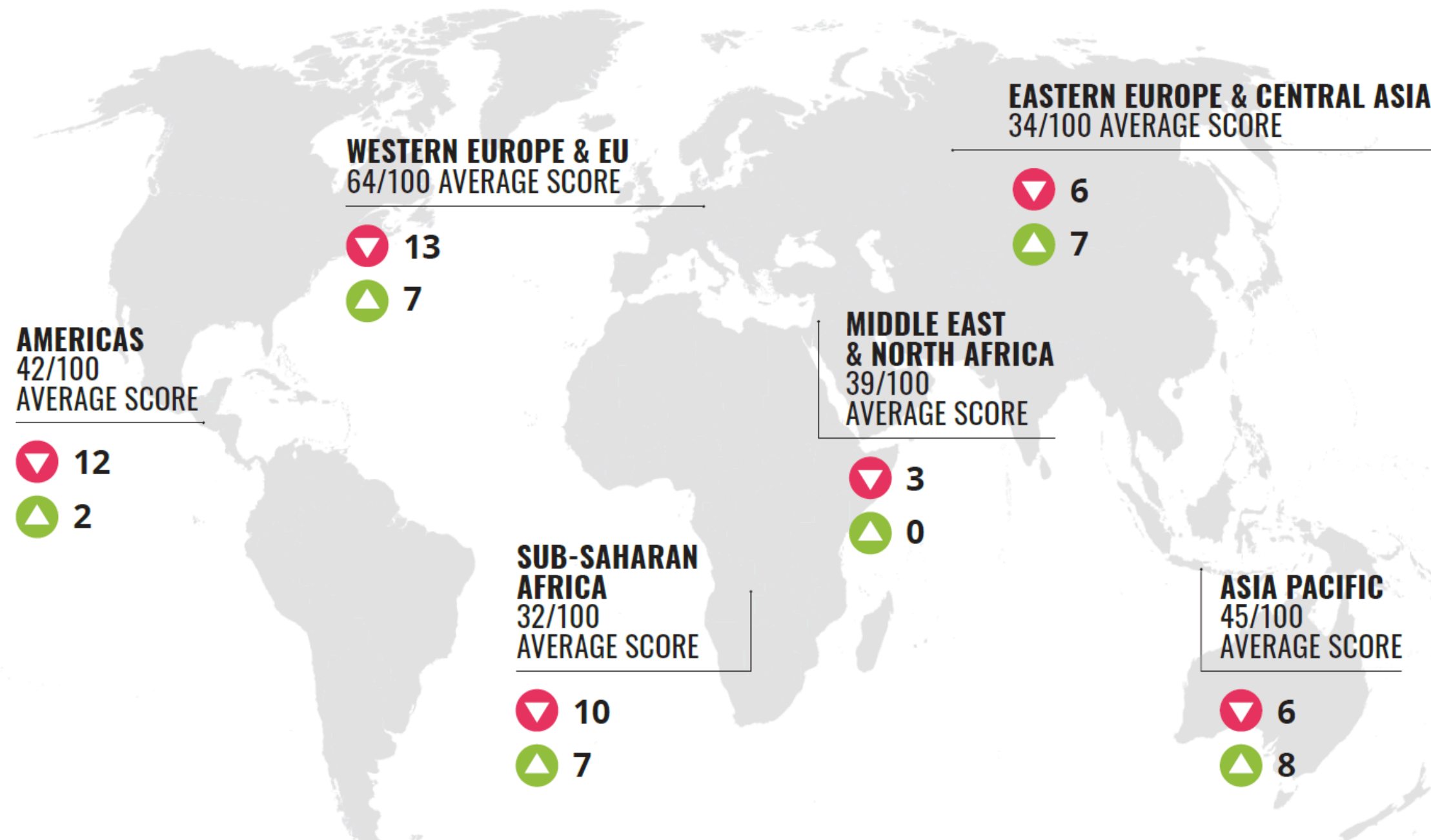
## BOTTOM 20 COUNTRIES

20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• D.R. Congo</li><li>• Comoros</li><li>• Cambodia</li></ul>	15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Syria</li><li>• Korea, North</li><li>• Equatorial Guinea</li></ul>
19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Tajikistan</li></ul>	14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sudan</li><li>• Nicaragua</li></ul>
17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Turkmenistan</li><li>• Burundi</li></ul>	13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Yemen</li><li>• Libya</li><li>• Eritrea</li></ul>
16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Myanmar</li><li>• Haiti</li><li>• Afghanistan</li></ul>	10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Venezuela</li></ul>
		9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• South Sudan</li><li>• Somalia</li></ul>

0 = Highly corrupt  
100 = Very clean

- At the bottom of the index, **D.R. Congo (20), Comoros (20)** and **Cambodia (20)** lead the countries scoring below **25/100**.
- These are mostly conflict-affected and highly repressive countries, including **Venezuela (10)**; and the lowest scorers, **Somalia** and **South Sudan**, which both score **9/100**.

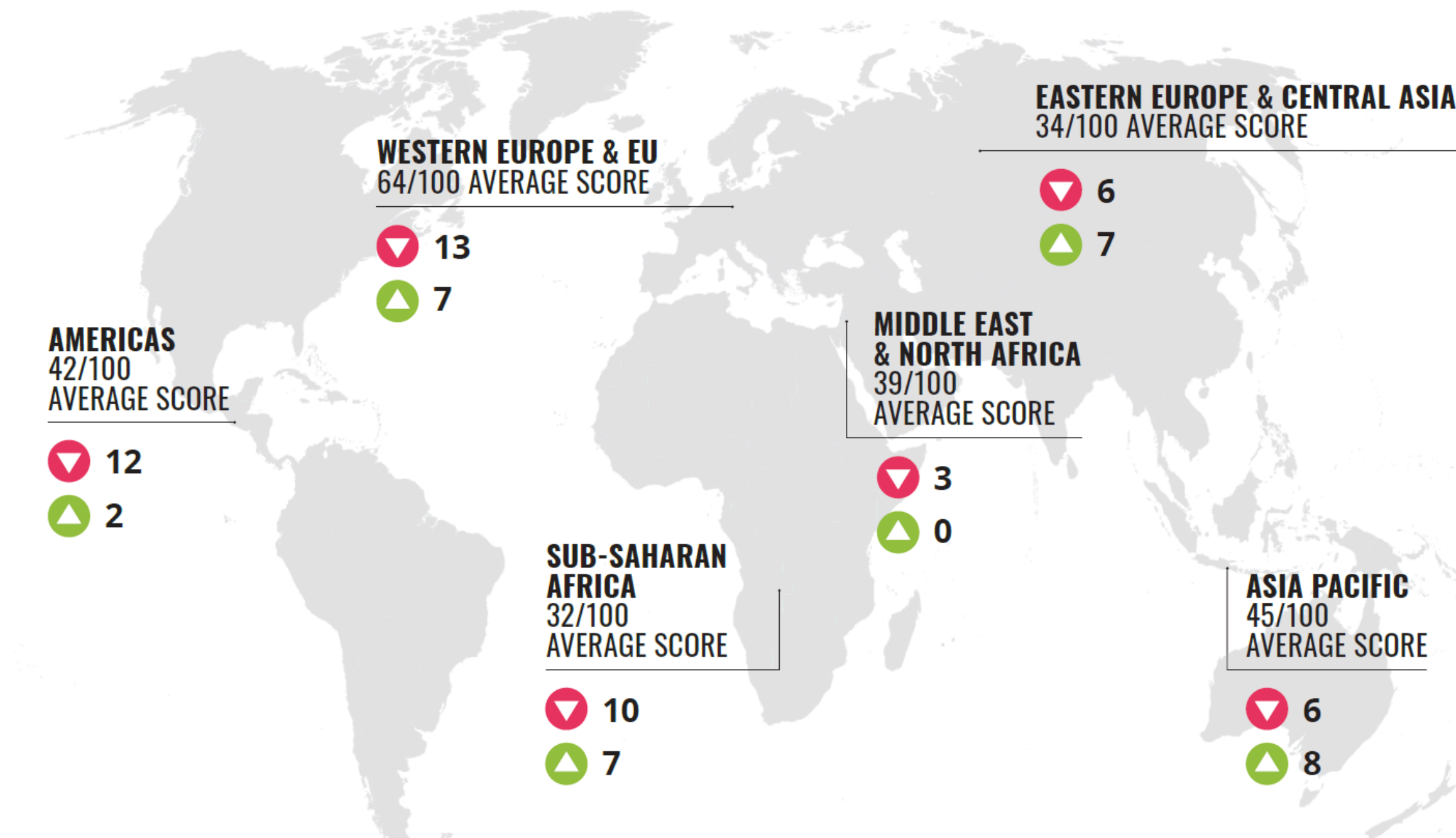
# 5. REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS



- As in previous years, **Western Europe & EU** remains the highest scoring region with an average of **64/100**.
- However, this region also accounts for the highest number of countries that declined since 2012.



# 5. REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS



- **Sub-Saharan Africa (32/100)**, and **Eastern Europe and Central Asia (34/100)** continue to trail as the lowest scoring regions on the CPI.
- The average scores for both regions dropped by **1 point** in 2025, while 7 countries in both regions improved their scores since 2012.

# 6. SIGNIFICANT CHANGES

- A closer look at countries with significant changes in their CPI scores reveals clear **trends that drive improvement and decline.**
- In analysing the significant changes, we have identified **4** Groups of countries:
  - **Group A**: Countries with sustained declines since 2012, where deterioration has been substantial and prolonged.
  - **Group B**: Higher-scoring countries that have slipped noticeably from their initial baselines.
  - **Group C**: Countries that have climbed from the bottom toward the middle of the CPI ranking.
  - **Group D**: Countries that have long-term gains starting with mid-to-high CPI scores.

# 6. SIGNIFICANT CHANGES-GROUP A

- Countries with sustained declines since 2012, where deterioration has been substantial and prolonged.

- **Key Drivers**

- These countries show long-term, **structural erosion of integrity systems** driven by **democratic backsliding**, institutional weakening and/or entrenched **patronage networks**.
- This has been accelerated by **conflict** in some cases, and declines are steep, persistent and hard to reverse because corruption becomes systemic and deeply ingrained in both political and administrative systems.

## SUSTAINED DECLINERS

- 40 • Hungary
- 15 • Syria
- 10 • Venezuela
- 9 • South Sudan

# 6. SIGNIFICANT CHANGES-GROUP B

- Higher-scoring countries that have slipped noticeably from their initial baselines.

- **Key Drivers**

- In many of these countries, corruption risks have increased because **independent checks and balances have been weakened**,
- Key gaps in anti-corruption legislation have not been addressed, and enforcement has been scaled back.
- Several have also experienced strains to their democracies, including political polarisation and the growing **influence of private money** on decision making.
- This trend shows that even **robust systems can be vulnerable to integrity risks**.

## HIGH-SCORE DECLINERS

- |    |                  |
|----|------------------|
| 81 | • New Zealand    |
| 80 | • Sweden         |
| 75 | • Canada         |
| 70 | • United Kingdom |
| 66 | • France         |
| 64 | • United States  |
| 63 | • Chile          |

# 6. SIGNIFICANT CHANGES-GROUP C

- Countries that have climbed from the bottom toward the middle of the CPI ranking.
- **Key Drivers**
  - Their progress is driven by **long-term efforts from political leaders and regulators**, whether through broad legal and institutional reforms in more open settings or narrow state-led control campaigns in more restricted ones.
  - **Strong, free civil society organisations** have also maintained and protected the paths to good governance reforms that many of these countries have taken.

## LOW-SCORE PERFORMERS

46 • Senegal

43 • Cote d'Ivoire

39 • Albania

36 • Ukraine

31 • Uzbekistan



# 6. SIGNIFICANT CHANGES-GROUP D

- Counties that have long-term gains starting with mid-to-high CPI scores.
- **Key Drivers**
  - A persistent **consolidation of anti-corruption efforts** has driven progress in these countries.
  - These include strengthened oversight institutions and broad political consensus in favour of **clean governance**.
  - This has often been supported by **digitalisation of public services**, professionalisation of the civil service, and integration of regional and global governance standards and frameworks.

## HIGH-SCORE PERFORMERS

- 76 • Estonia
- 71 • Bhutan
- 68 • Seychelles
- 63 • South Korea

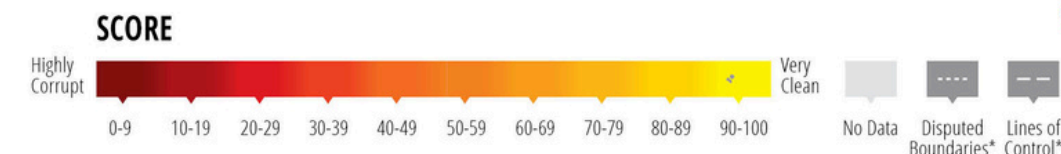
# 7. SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA'S PERFORMANCE

## CORRUPTION PERCEPTIONS INDEX 2025

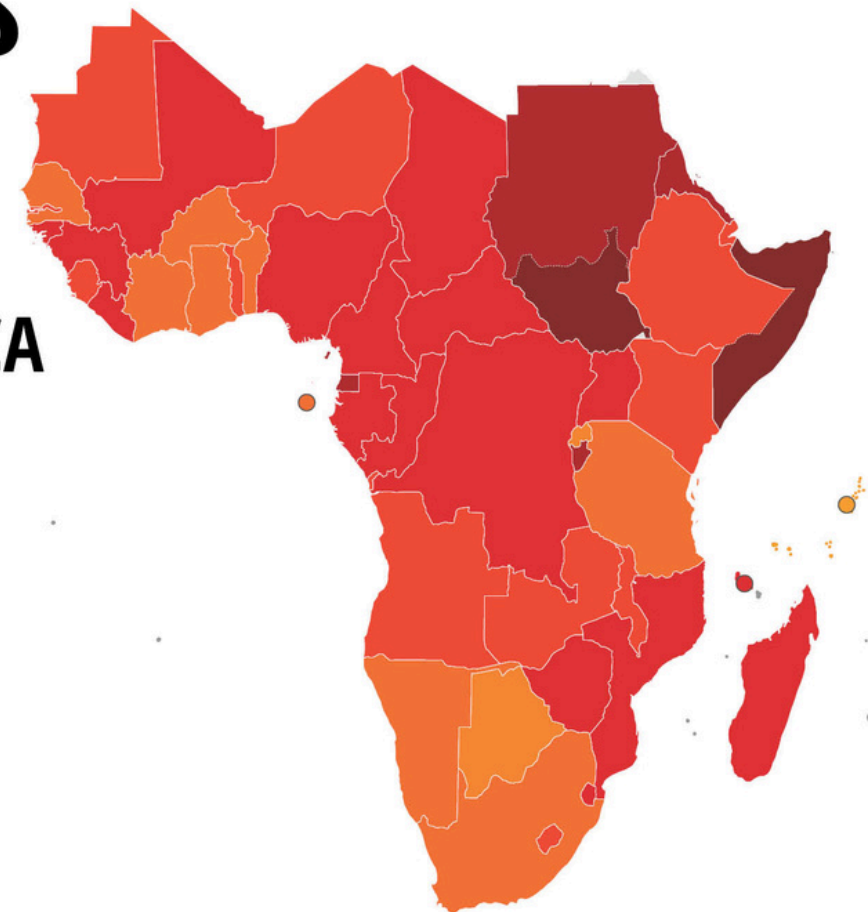
SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

32/100

AVERAGE SCORE



\*The designations employed and the presentation of material on this map follow the UN practice to the best of our knowledge as of January 2026. They do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of Transparency International concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.



- In **Sub-Saharan Africa (32/100)**, only four of the 49 countries scored above 50; ten have significantly worsened since 2012, and only seven have improved over the same period.
- The **Seychelles (68)** remains the region's highest scorer, followed by **Cabo Verde (62)**, **Botswana (58)** and **Rwanda (58)**. The lowest scorers are **Sudan (14)**, **Eritrea (13)**, **Somalia (9)**, and **South Sudan (9)**.

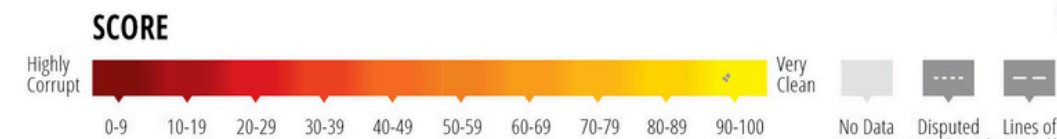
# 7. SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA'S PERFORMANCE

## CORRUPTION PERCEPTIONS INDEX 2025

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

32/100

AVERAGE SCORE



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- **Angola (32)** has gained 17 points since 2015, following measures such as high-profile investigations and prosecutions, and new laws that facilitate the recovery of stolen assets.
- **Mozambique (21)** has dropped 10 points. Official figures show that corruption cases registered in the first quarter of 2025 cost the state about US\$4.1 million, underscoring the scale of the challenge.

# 8. CORRUPTION AND DEMOCRACY

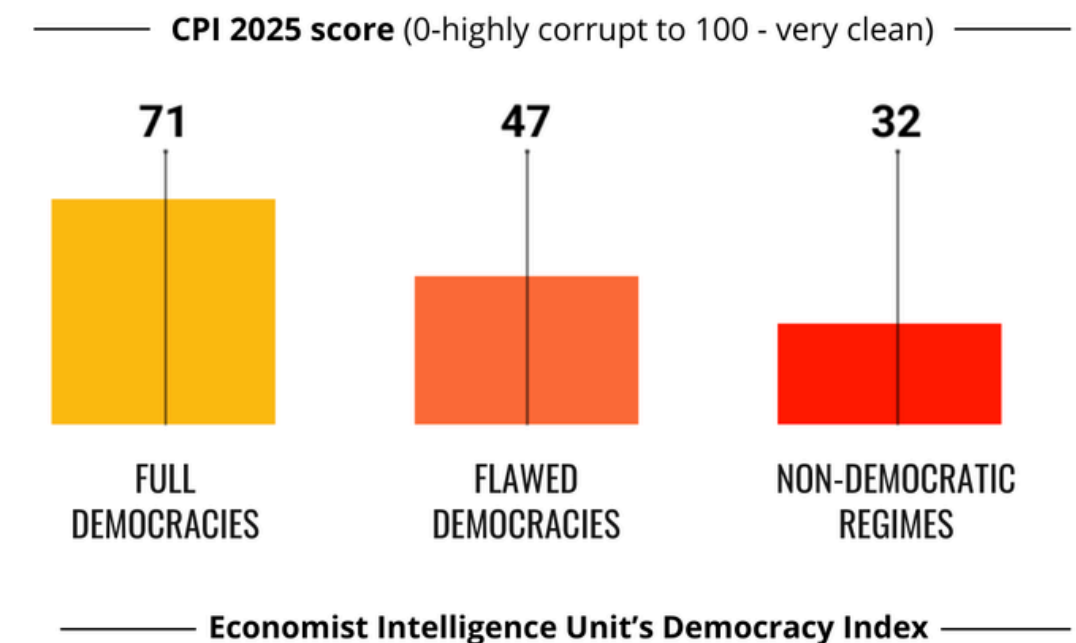
- The 2025 CPI shows the stark contrast in controlling corruption between nations with strong, independent institutions, free and fair elections, and open civic space, and those ruled by repressive authoritarian regimes.
- **1. Corruption and Type of Government:**
- Full democracies have a CPI average of **71/100**, while flawed democracies average **47/100** and authoritarian regimes just **32/100**, indicating democracy and strong, independent institutions are crucial for combatting corruption fully, effectively and sustainably.

CORRUPTION PERCEPTIONS INDEX 2025

#CPI2025

## Average CPI 2025 score for different types of government

Strong democracies control corruption far more effectively than flawed ones and authoritarian regimes.



Source: \*Economist Intelligence Unit's Democracy Index and Transparency International's 2025 CPI



# 8. CORRUPTION AND DEMOCRACY

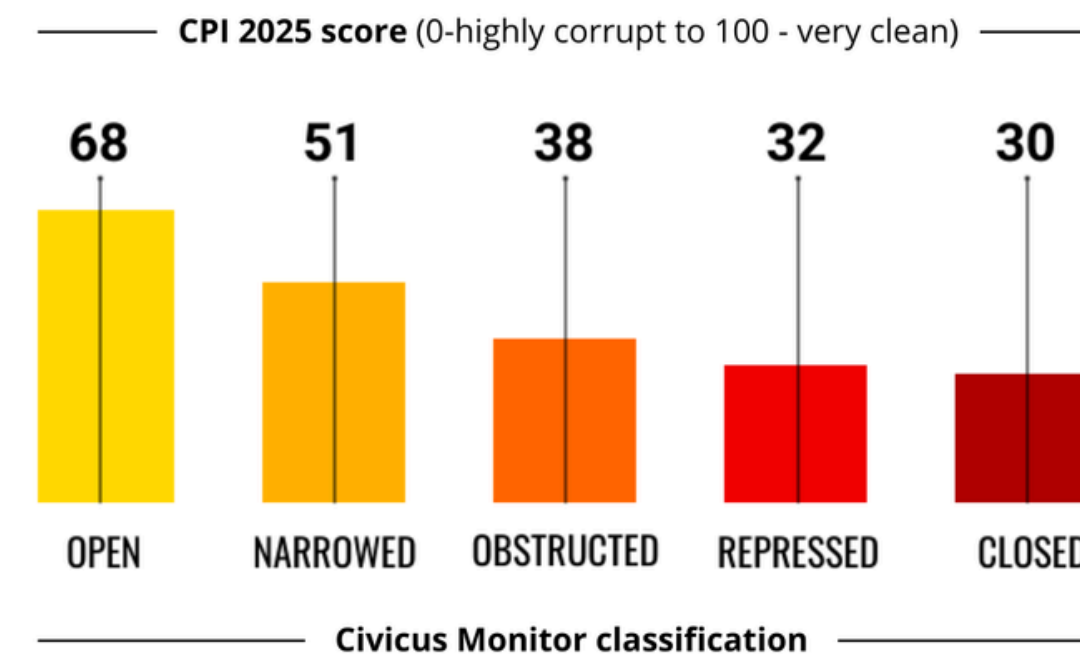
- **2. Corruption and Civic Freedoms:**
- Countries with more open civic space tend to have lower levels of corruption because they tend to control corruption better.
- Conversely, countries where these freedoms are lacking are more likely to lose control of corruption: 36 of the 50 countries where the CPI scores have significantly declined have also seen a reduction in civic space.

CORRUPTION PERCEPTIONS INDEX 2025

#CPI2025

## Average CPI 2025 score for different levels of civic freedoms

Countries with more open civic space usually have less corruption. When civic space shrinks, CPI scores tend to drop, indicating that fewer freedoms often go along with weaker efforts to fight corruption.



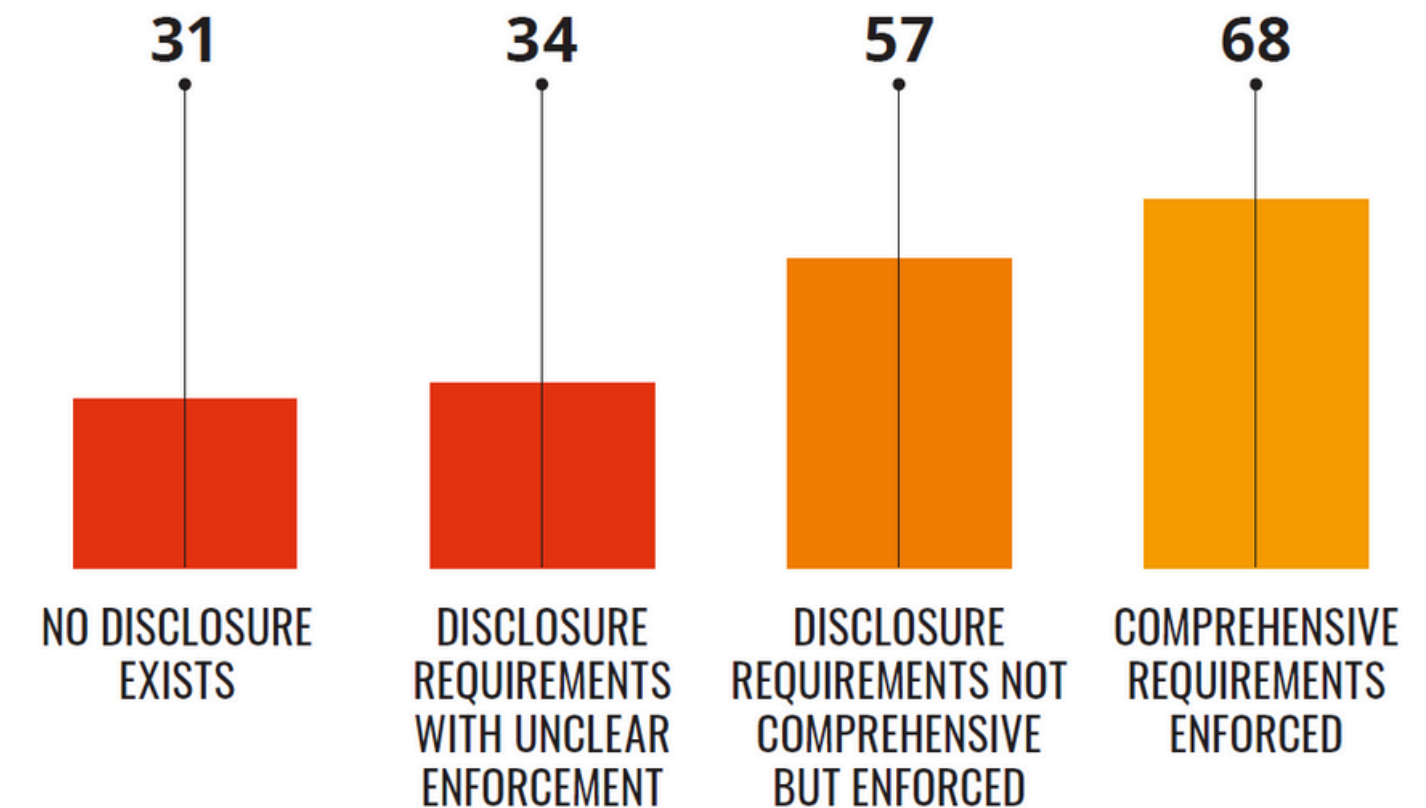


# 8. CORRUPTION AND DEMOCRACY

- **3. Corruption, Political Integrity and State Capture**
- Countries with **stronger oversight institutions** and free and fair elections tend to show greater resilience against corruption risks.
- In particular, **transparency** and **caps on who funds** political parties and how much is **spent** on election campaigns are needed to ensure that democracy is protected from undue influence.

## AVERAGE CPI 2025 SCORE FOR DIFFERENT LEVELS OF TRANSPARENCY IN CAMPAIGN FINANCE

Greater transparency of campaign donations is associated with lower levels of corruption.

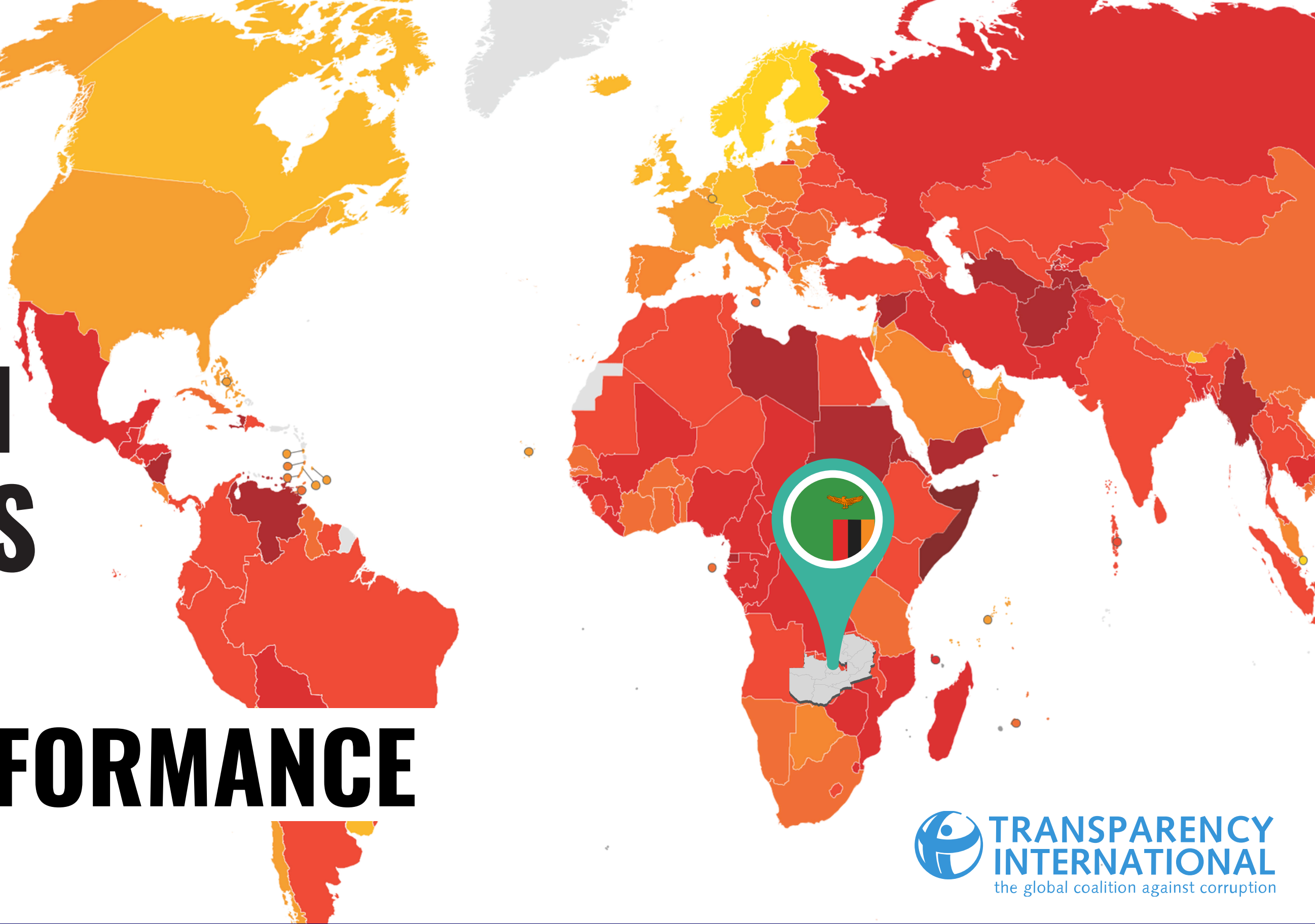


\*Source: VARIETIES OF DEMOCRACY (V-DEM) 2024 "DISCLOSURE OF CAMPAIGN DONATIONS" and Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index 2025.



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# CORRUPTION PERCEPTIONS INDEX 2025 ZAMBIA'S PERFORMANCE



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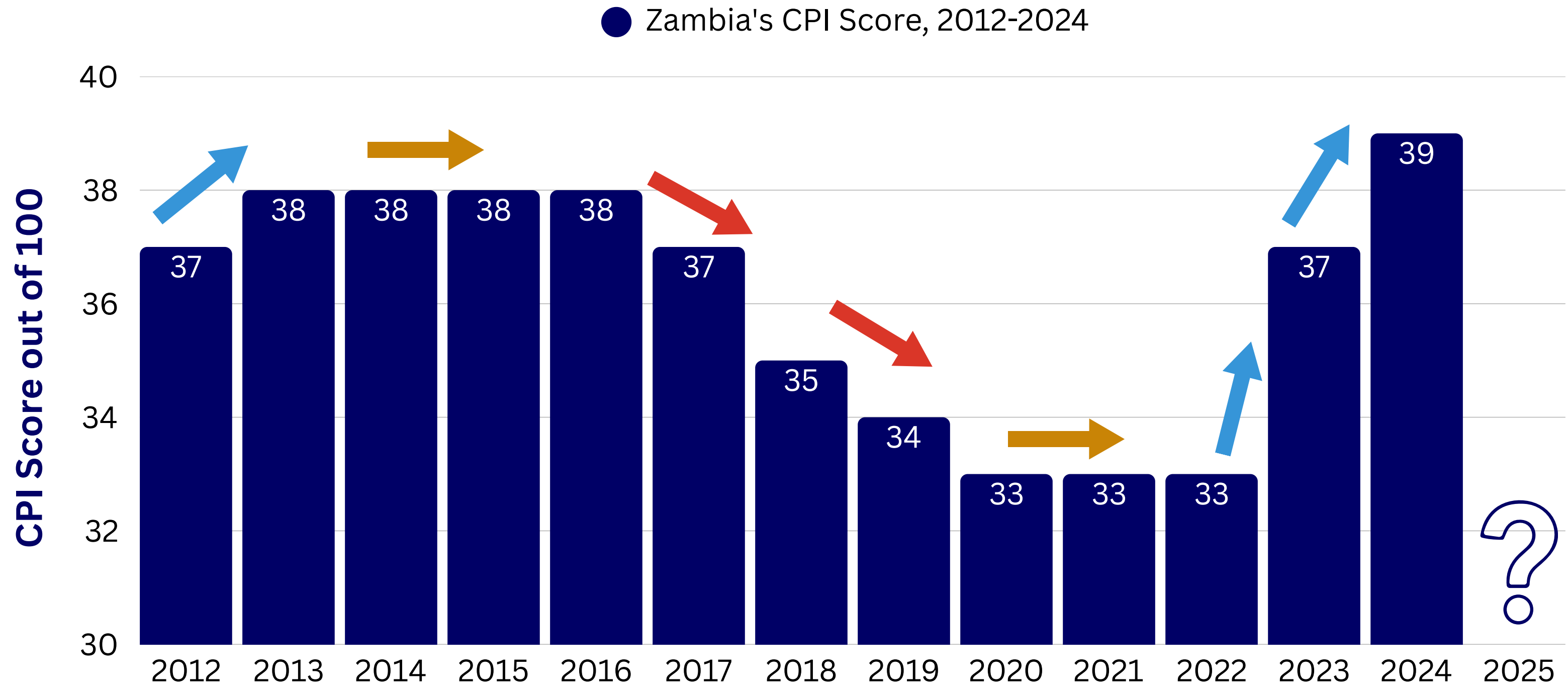
Bright Chizonde & Chimuka Nachibinga  
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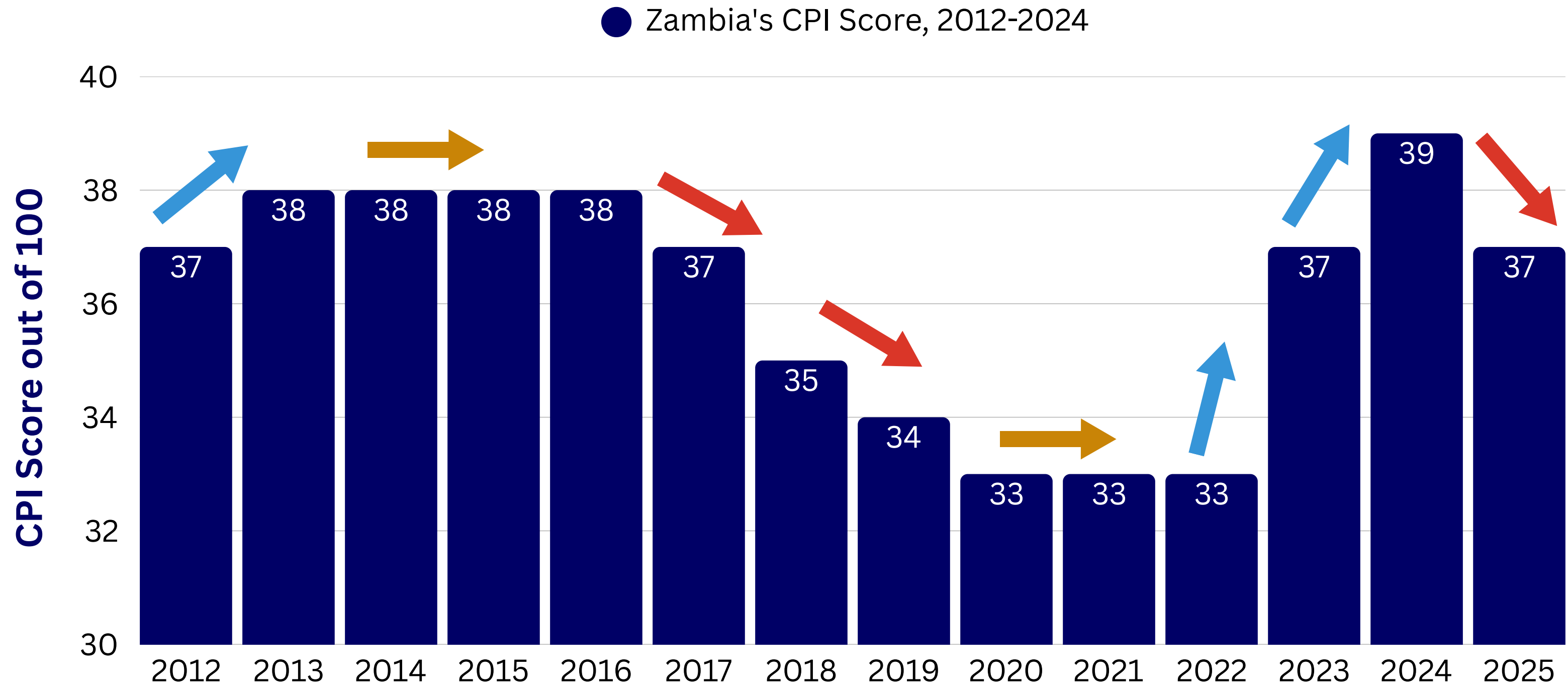
# 1. METHODOLOGY-ZAMBIAN CASE STUDY

- Since 2022, TI-Z has been conducting a **contextualised analysis** of the CPI results for Zambia. The methodology comprises the following:
  1. **Trend analysis** on Zambia's CPI score and rank (Base year = 2012)
  2. **Comparative Analysis** of Zambia's CPI score within the sub-region.
  3. **Analysis of Data Sources** to identify the **types of corruption** and the **measures** that explain the movement in the CPI score.
  4. **Thematics/Graphical Analysis**: In 2025, we expanded our analysis to focus on a specific **theme** (selected from Global themes) and illustrate the corruption trends using a **graphical model**.
  5. **Desk-Based Research**: This supports the observed trends and the graphical model with evidence from reports, evaluations, and media articles.

## 2. ZAMBIA'S CPI TREND

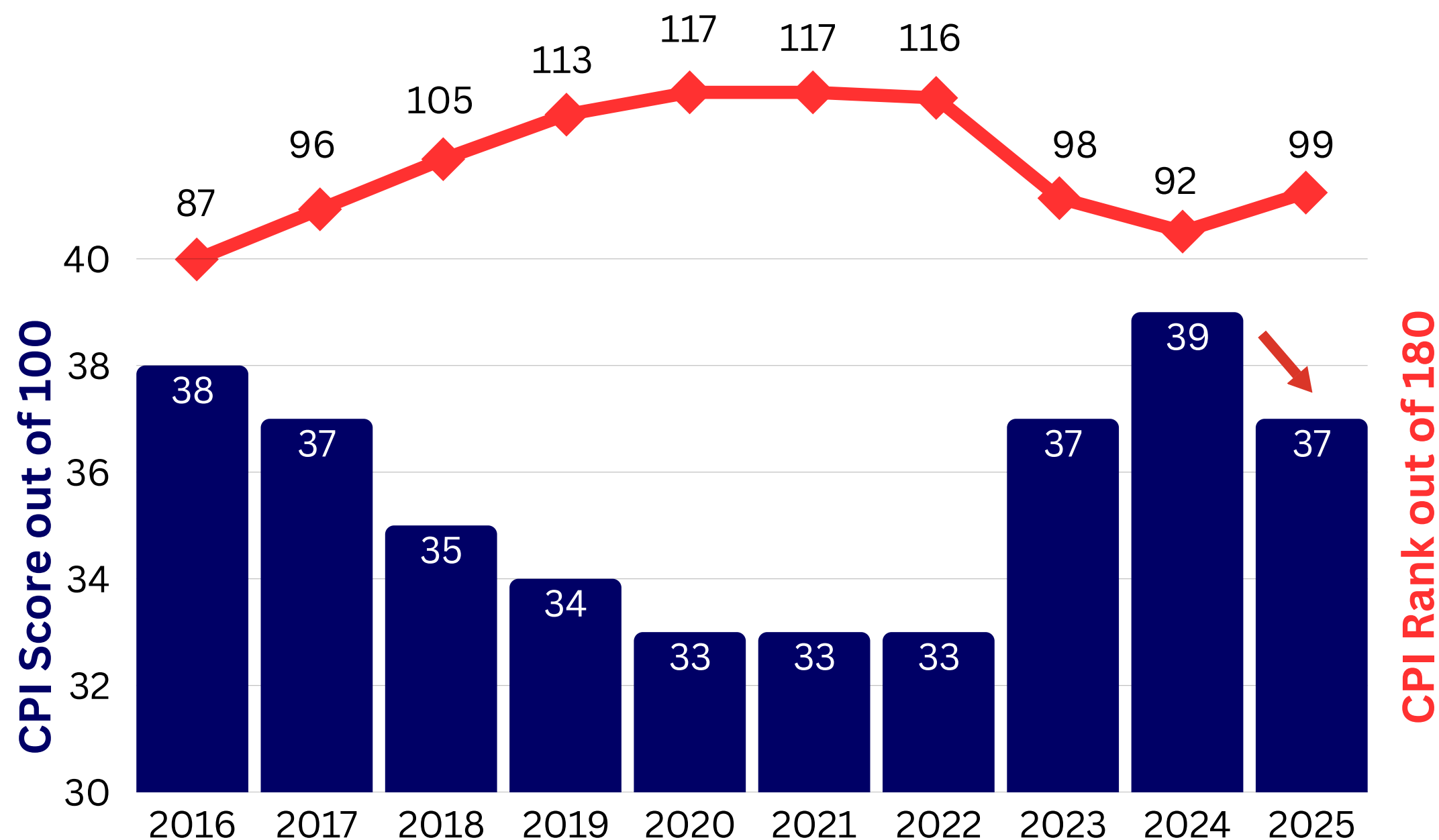


## 2. ZAMBIA'S CPI TREND



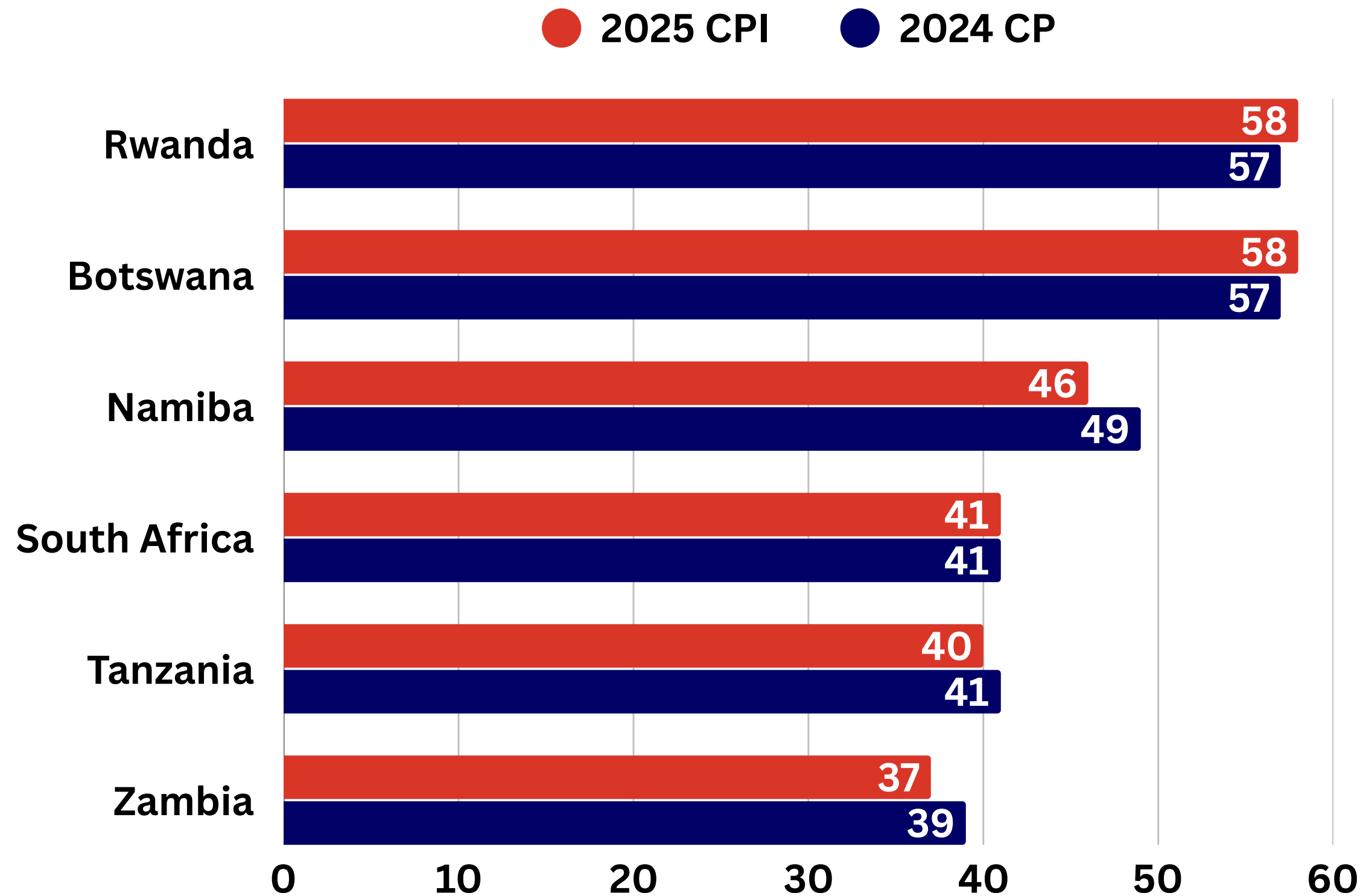


## 2. ZAMBIA'S CPI TREND



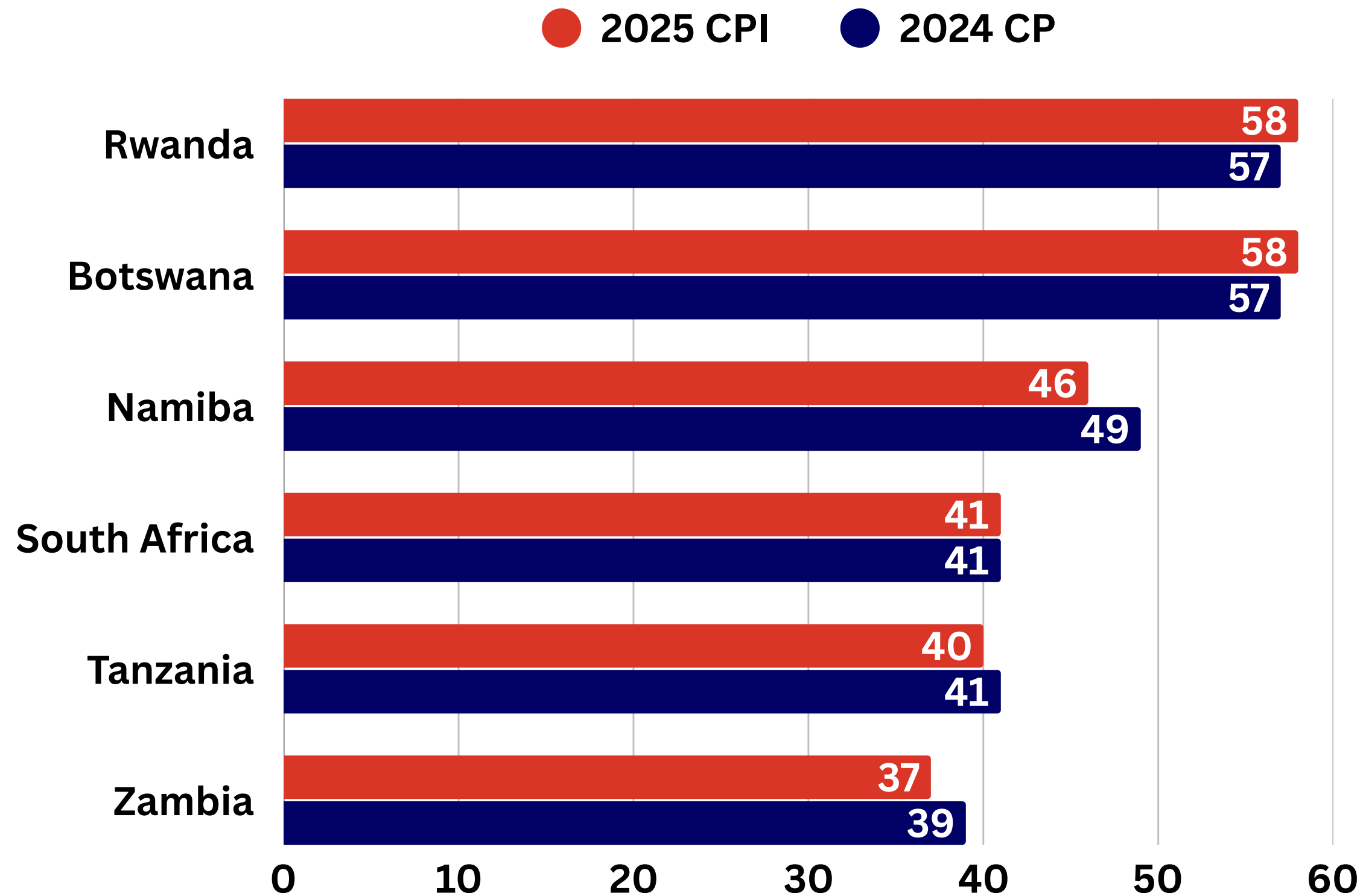
- Zambia's CPI score declined by **2 points** in 2025, from **39/100 in 2024 to 37/100**, and its rank fell by **7 places** from 92/180 in 2024 to **99/182** in 2025.
- This is the first time the CPI score has declined in the past 5 years, indicating **challenges in sustaining anti-corruption efforts.**

### 3. ZAMBIA'S COMPARATIVE PERFORMANCE



- In 2025, the CPI scores for **Botswana (58)** and **Rwanda (58)** both increased by **1 point**, while **South Africa (41)** maintained its score for the third consecutive year.

### 3. ZAMBIA'S COMPARATIVE PERFORMANCE



- Meanwhile, the scores for **Tanzania (40)** and **Zambia (37)** both dropped by **1 point**, while Namibia's score dropped by **3 points**, from **49/100** in 2024 to **46/100** in 2025.

# 4. ANALYSIS OF DATA SOURCES

DATA SOURCE	2023 CPI	2024 CPI	2025 CPI	CHANGE 2024-2025
The African Development Bank Country Policy and Institutional Assessment*	32	34	34	0
The Bertelsmann Stiftung Transformation Index*	33	34	34	0
Economist Intelligence Unit Country Risk Service Ratings	37	35	34	-1
The Global Insight Country Risk Ratings	47	46	46	0
The PRS Group International Country Risk Guide	32	33	33	0
The World Bank Country Policy and Institutional Assessment	27	27	27	0
World Economic Forum Executive Opinion Survey	.	53	38	-15*
World Justice Project Rule of Law Index	36	35	34	-1
The Varieties of Democracy Project	54	53	50	-3*
Corruption Perceptions Index (Average)	37.25	38.89	36.66	

In 2025, Transparency International used 9 data sources to compute Zambia’s CPI score. Only the **World Economic Forum Executive Opinion Survey (-15)** and the **Varieties of Democracy Project (-3)** indicated significant changes.

**Note:** \*Indicates that absolute change in the data source is greater than 2 points

# 5. WHAT HAS CONTRIBUTED TO THE DECLINE?

- The **World Economic Forum Executive Opinion Survey (-15)** measures bribery in business operations and the level of **diversion of public funds** to companies, individuals or groups due to corruption. (the supply side of political corruption), while the **Varieties of Democracy Project (-3)** measures political corruption in the executive, legislature, and judiciary (the demand side of political corruption), including bribery, embezzlement, **procurement corruption** and grand corruption.
- **Note:** According to Transparency International, **political corruption** is “The manipulation of policies, institutions and rules of procedure in the allocation of resources and financing by political decision makers, who abuse their position to sustain their power, status and wealth.”

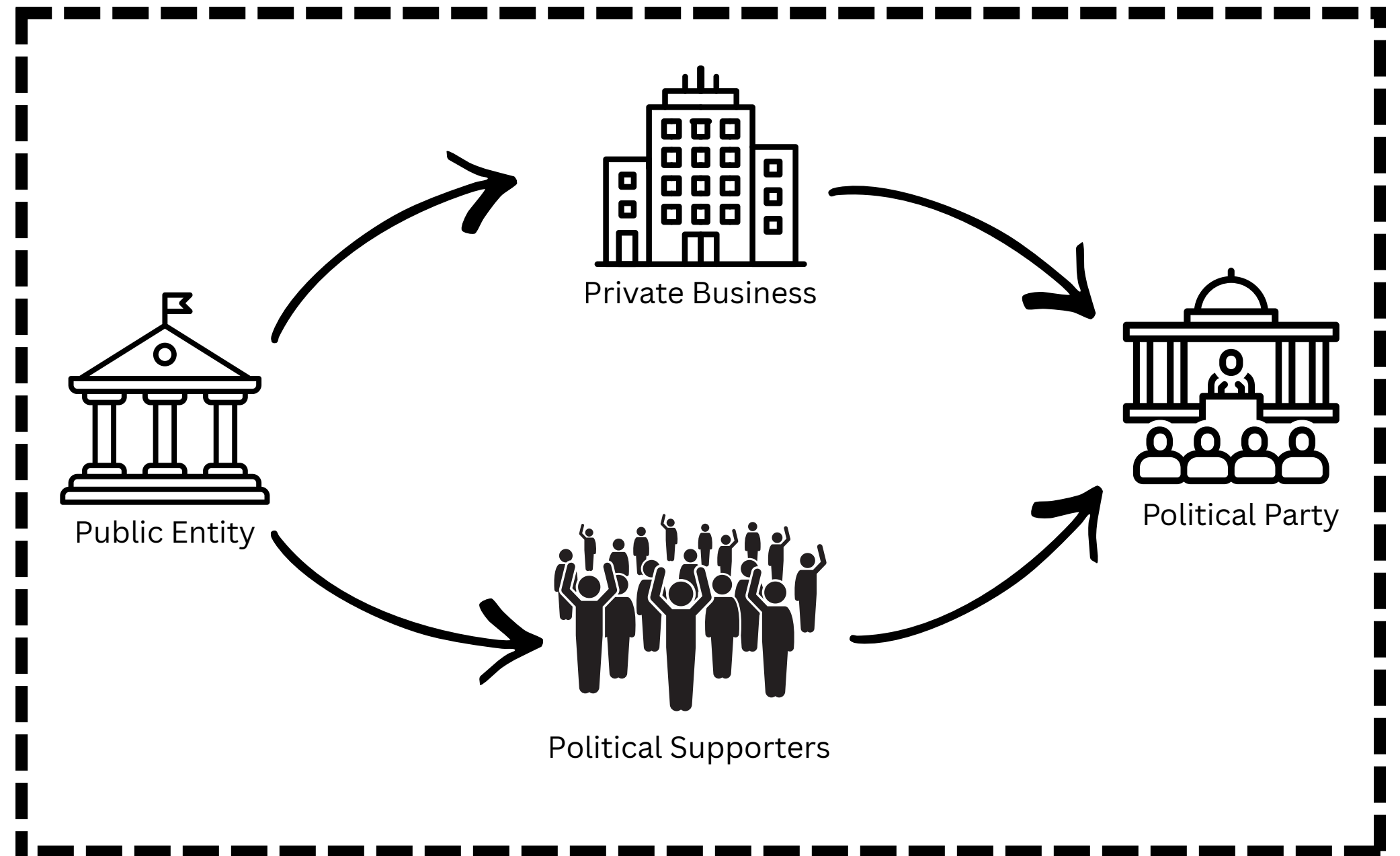


# 5. WHAT HAS CONTRIBUTED TO THE DECLINE?

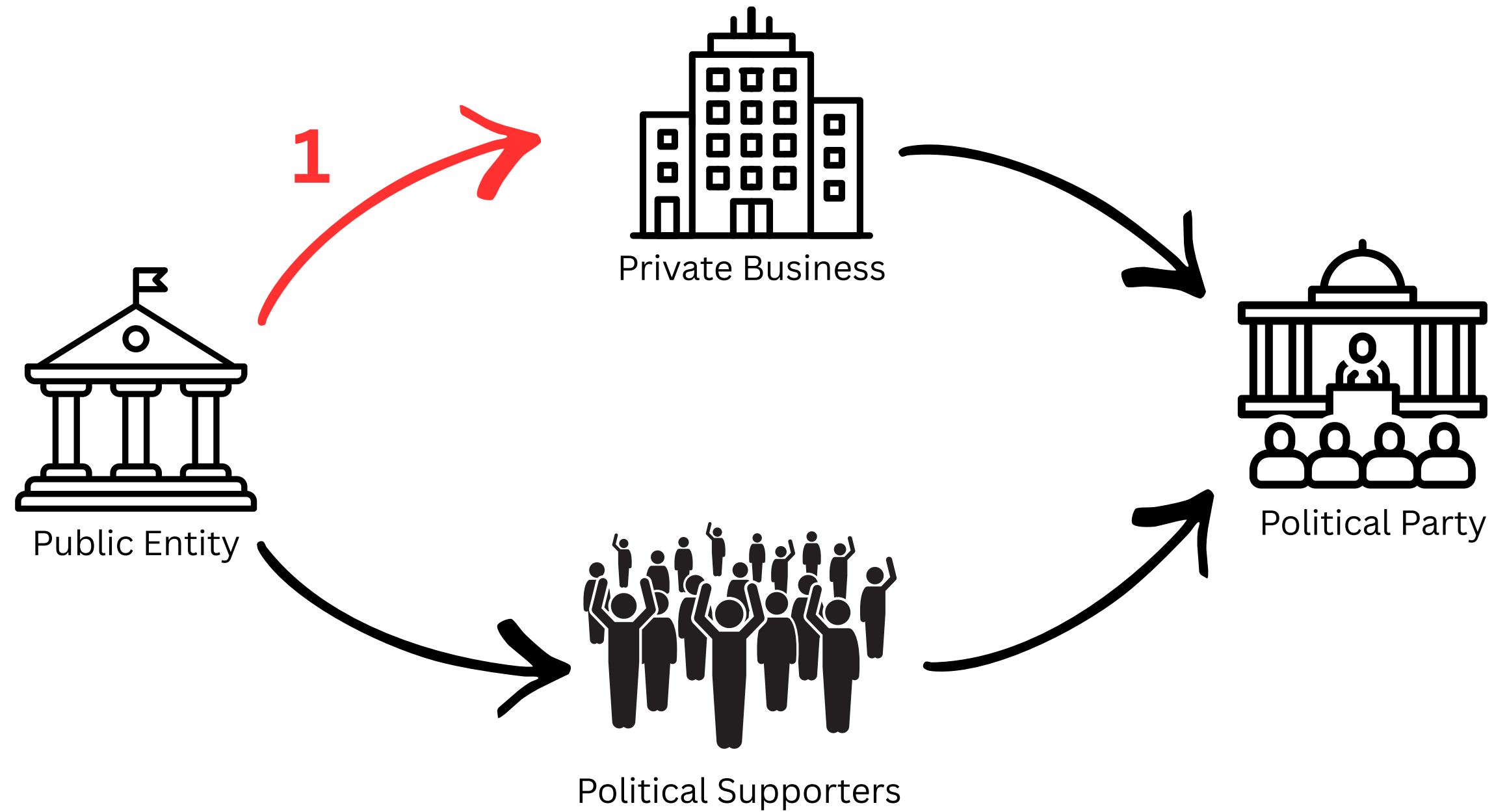
- Elements of the Model
- 2025 CPI Results point to:
  - a. Increase in **diversion of public funds** to companies, **individuals or groups** due to corruption
  - b. Increase in bribery, embezzlement, **procurement corruption** and **grand corruption**.
- The theme “**Democracy, political integrity and state capture,**” is relevant to the Zambian context
  - Zambia is headed to the 2026 Elections
  - Political Parties and candidates are mobilising resources
  - There is no law to regulate political party financing

# 5. WHAT HAS CONTRIBUTED TO THE DECLINE?

- **The Graphical Model:**
- **Proposition:** Public Funds can be diverted through politically connected **private sector businesses** participating in public procurement, and through direct participation of **political party supporters** in vulnerable government programmes.



## 5. WHAT HAS CONTRIBUTED TO THE DECLINE?

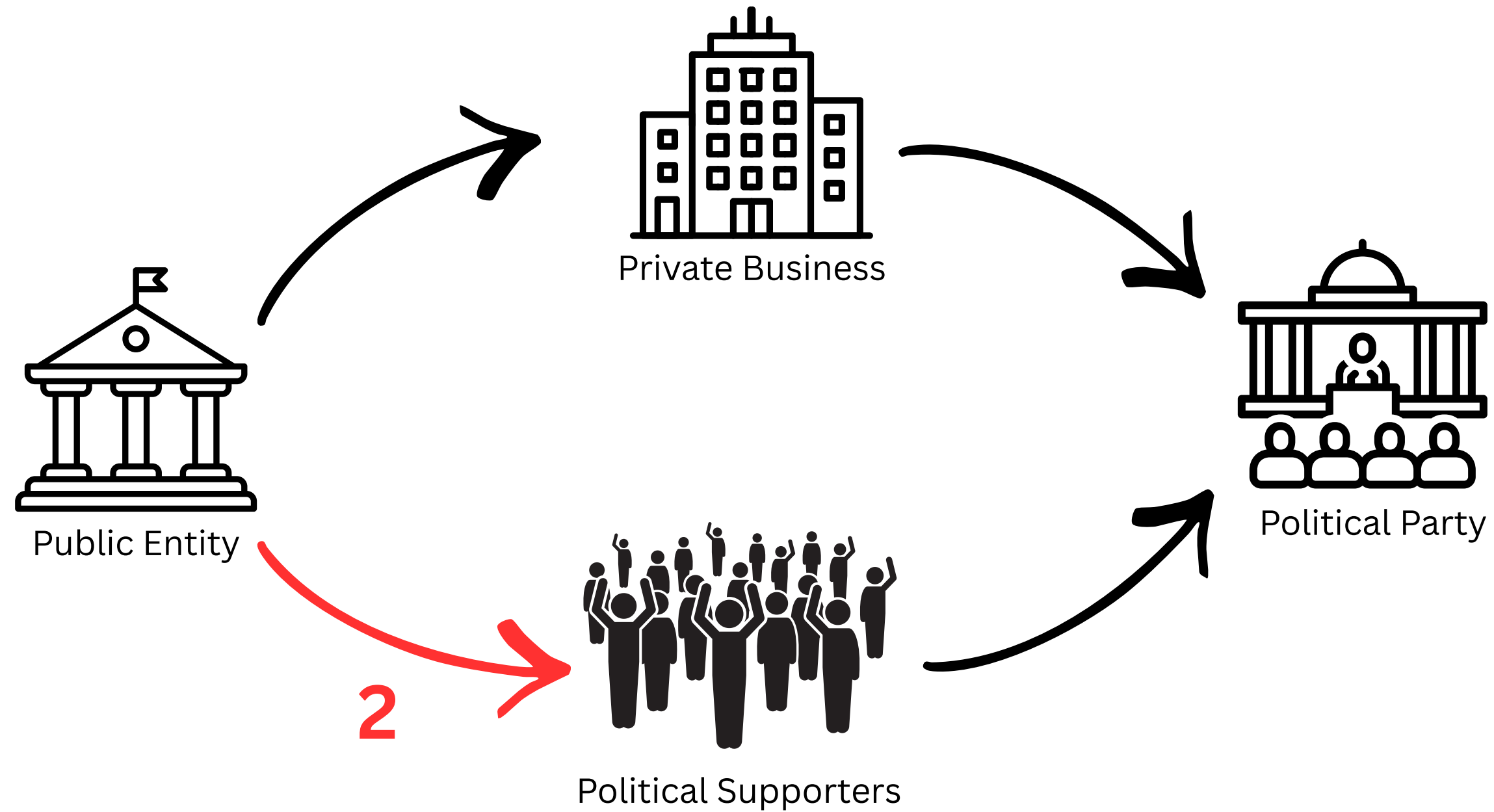


# 5. WHAT HAS CONTRIBUTED TO THE DECLINE?

- **(1) Evidence of Collusion among business entities, public officials, and gatekeepers.**
- Reports by the Financial Intelligence Centre indicate collusion among business entities, public officials, and gatekeepers, including lawyers and real estate agents, to exploit procurement processes and gain access to public funds.
- Limited access to and use of beneficial ownership registers exacerbate these risks. <sup>1</sup>

1. Financial Intelligence Centre (2025). Trends Report 2024. <https://www.fic.gov.zm/79-fic-news/124-trends-report-2024>

## 5. WHAT HAS CONTRIBUTED TO THE DECLINE?



# 5. WHAT HAS CONTRIBUTED TO THE DECLINE?

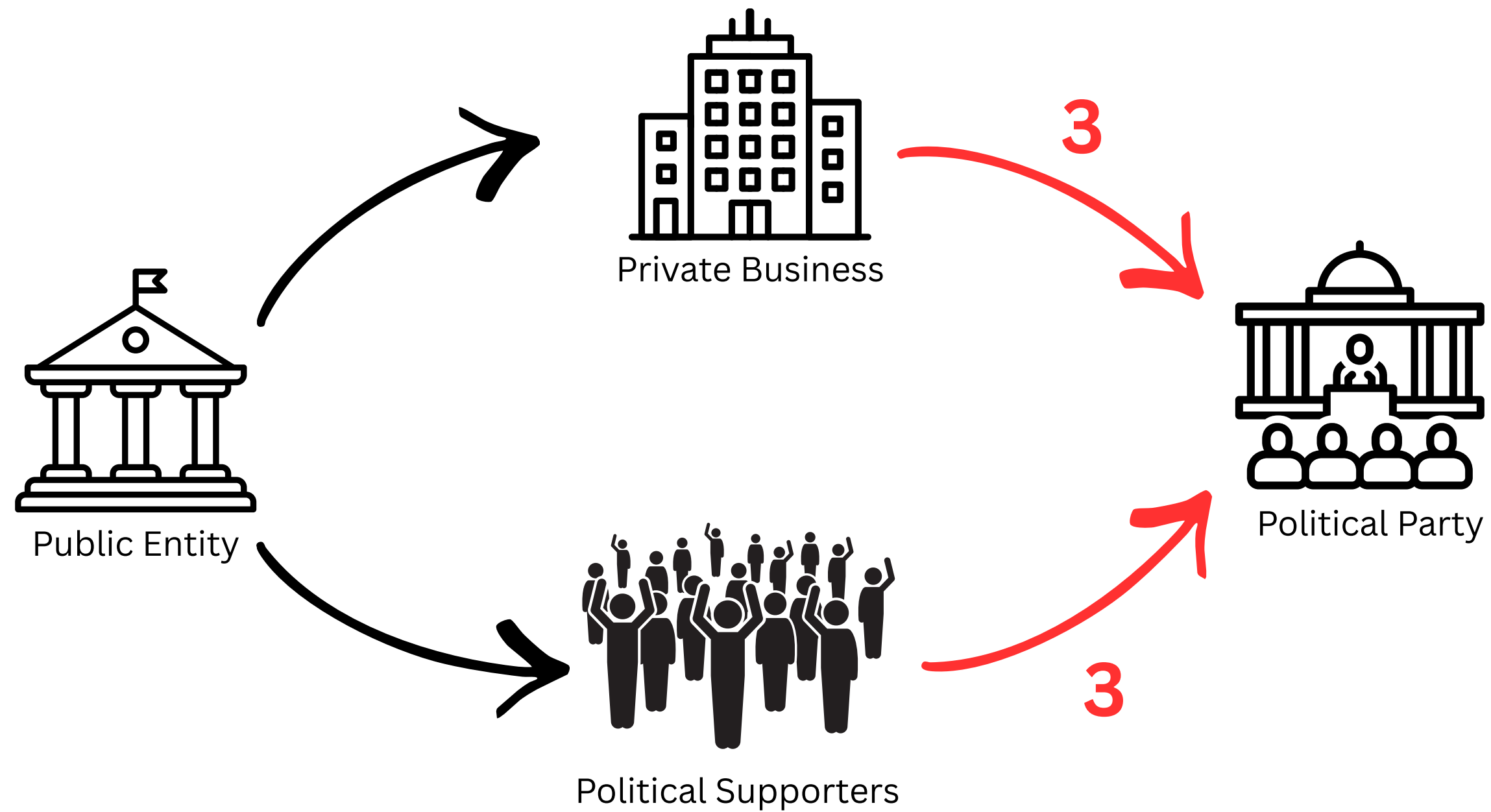
- **(2) Existence of Vulnerable Government Social Programmes.**
- These include the **Citizen Economic Empowerment Commission (CEEC)** loans; the **Farmer Input Support Programme (FISP)**, now incorporated in the Comprehensive Agriculture Support Programme (CASP); the **Cash for Work programme** and the **Constituency Development Fund (CDF)**.
- The CDF continues to receive increased budget allocations<sup>2</sup> despite recent programme audits indicating financial irregularities, including failures to recover loans, with the majority concentrated in the ruling UPND's political strongholds.<sup>3</sup>

2. Ministry of Finance and National Planning. (2021 to 2025). National Budget Speeches from 2022 to 2026. Financial Intelligence Centre (2025). Trends Report 2024. <https://www.fic.gov.zm/79-fic-news/124-trends-report-2024>

3. Transparency International Zambia (2025). Analytical Brief: 2023 Auditor General's Report on the Constituency Development Fund for the year ended 31 December 2023. Financial Intelligence Centre (2025). Trends Report 2024. <https://www.fic.gov.zm/79-fic-news/124-trends-report-2024>



## 5. WHAT HAS CONTRIBUTED TO THE DECLINE?



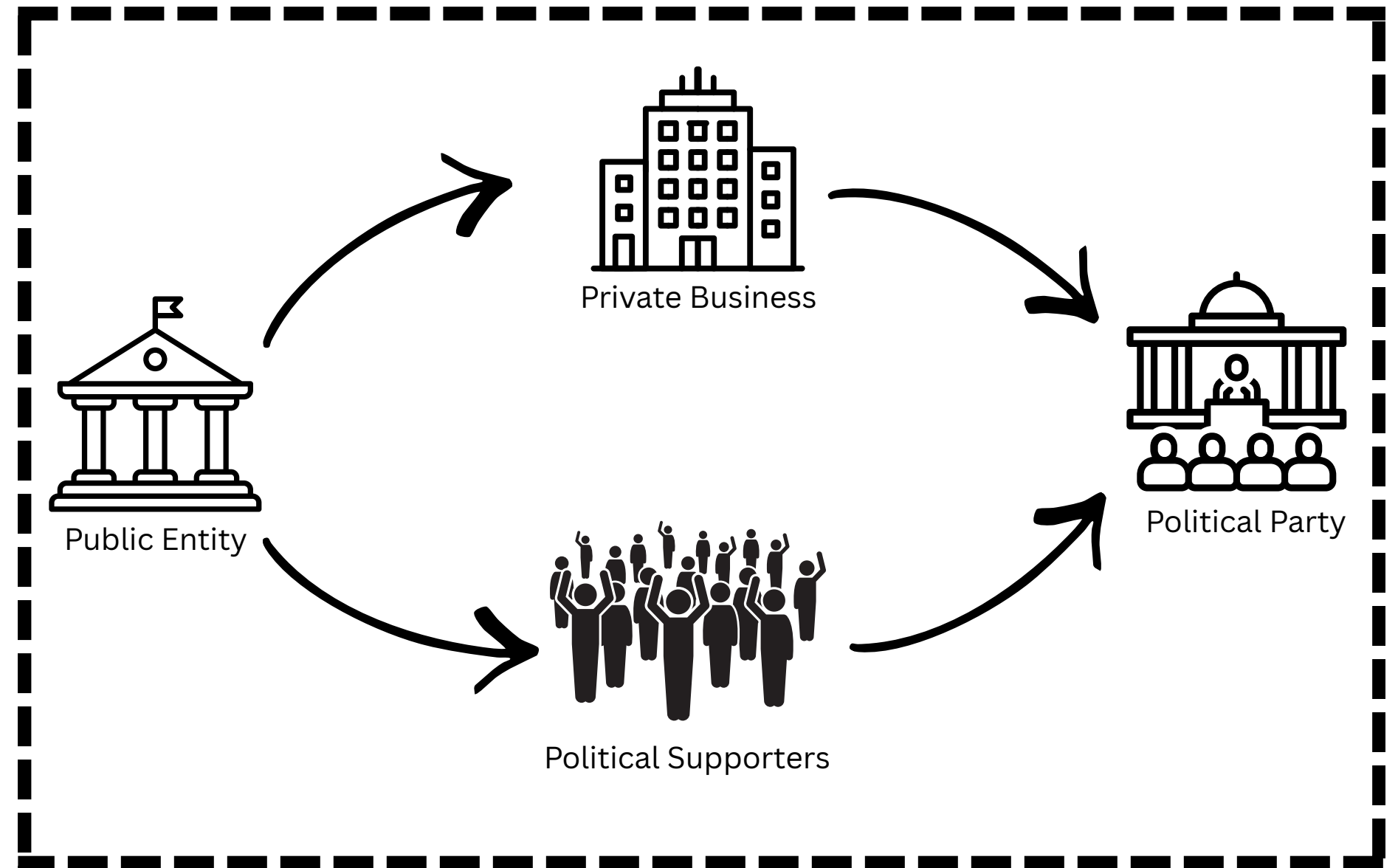
# 5. WHAT HAS CONTRIBUTED TO THE DECLINE?

- **(3) Lack of transparency and high risk of illicit financing.**
- Despite civil society advocacy to enhance transparency and accountability in political party and campaign financing, and the existence of **Article 60 of the Constitution**, which provides for the regulation of political party financing, there has been **little progress in enacting a political financing law in Zambia.**
- Recent studies indicate limited financial transparency among political parties and a **high risk of illicit financing.** The majority of political parties in Zambia conduct no due diligence on their sources of financing and accept donations from companies participating in public procurement <sup>2</sup>

3. Transparency International Zambia (2025). Assessing the level of transparency in political party financing and the risk of Illicit Financing in Zambia.

## 5. WHAT HAS CONTRIBUTED TO THE DECLINE?

- **Therefore**, TI-Z attributes the drop in the 2025 CPI score **to increased abuse of office by public officials, who are diverting public funds through strategic business interests and political supporters ahead of the 2026 Elections.**

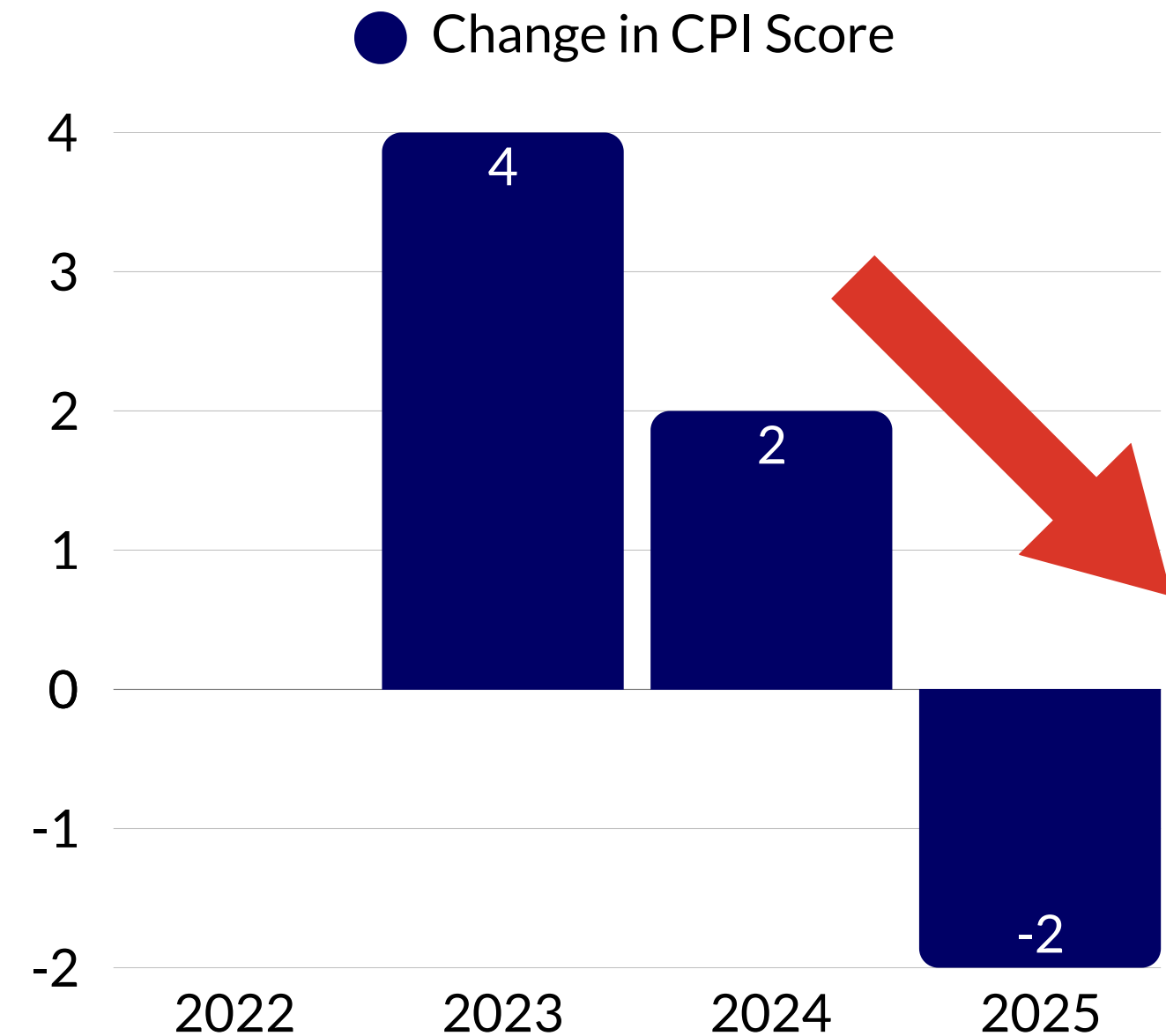


# 6. IMPLICATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

## 1. Zambia is on a Declining CPI

### Trend:

- Due to the lower point Improvement in 2024 (2 points) as compared to 2023 (4 points), plus the drop in 2025 (2 points), this indicates **difficulties in sustaining anti-corruption efforts.**

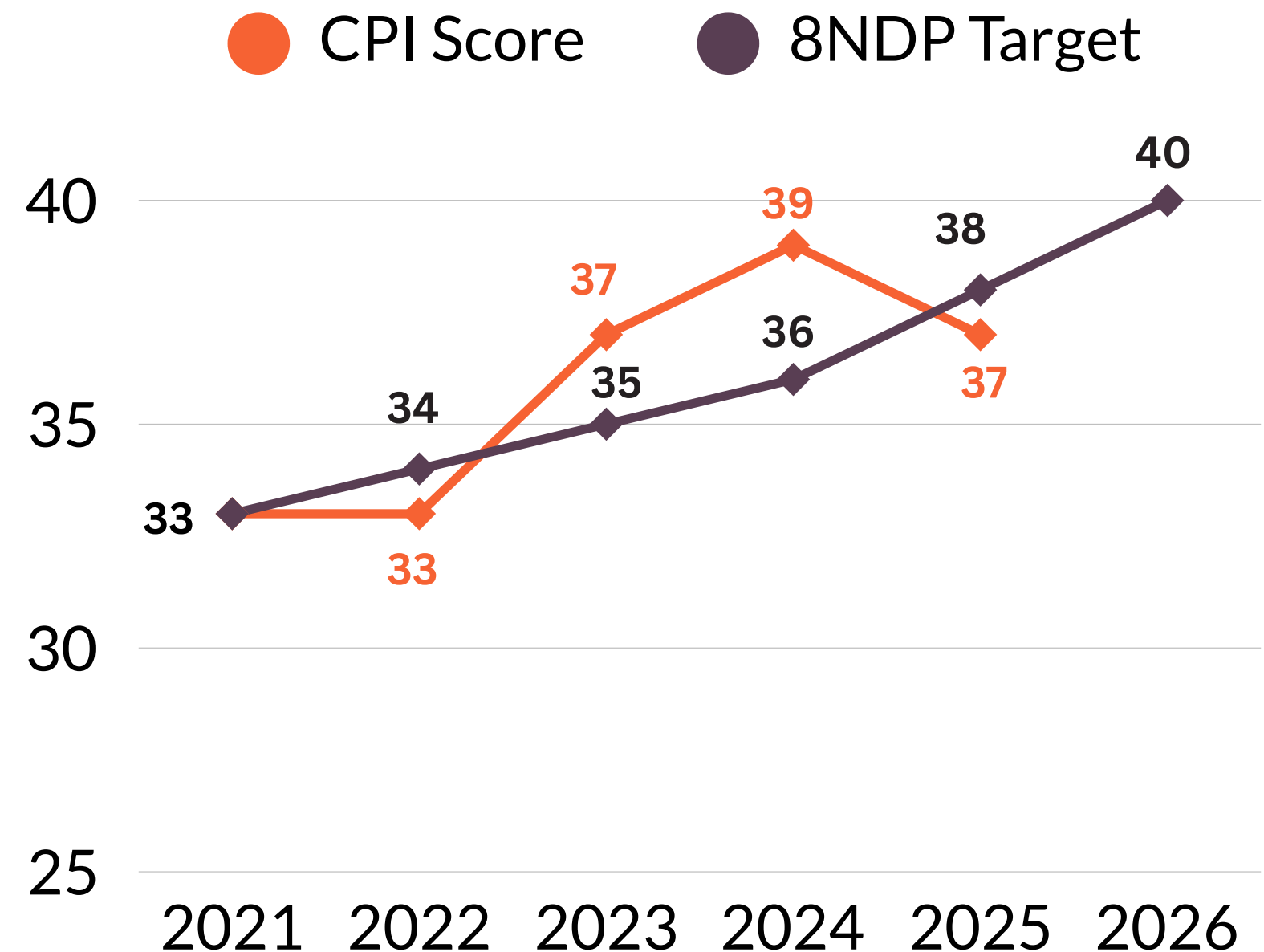


# 6. IMPLICATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

## 2. Risk of Falling below 8NDP

### Targets:

- In 2023 and 2024, Zambia's CPI score was above the 8NDP annual targets of 35/100 and 36/100, respectively.
- The **2-point** drop in 2025, means that Zambia's CPI score is now below the annual target of 38/100, and the country risks not achieving the target of 40/100 in 2026.





THANK YOU