



COUNTERING CORRUPTION

Strengthening Somalia's Oversight and Civil Society

Among as many as 182 countries, Somalia is identified as the world's worst in the Transparency International 2025 Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) released in February 2026. To address this, the Transparency Somalia Initiative (TSI) acts as a vital bridge between the government and citizens, advocating for the democratic values and public watchdogs essential to countering corruption and restoring national integrity.



THE MISSION OF THE TRANSPARENCY SOMALIA INITIATIVE (TSI)

Countering corruption in Somalia is the primary mission of the Transparency Somalia Initiative. TSI has played a key role in advocating for the enactment of laws and the development of policies with relevant authorities and partners. While Somalia became a State Party to the UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) in 2021, a significant implementation gap remains that TSI works daily to bridge.

RESTORING THE PILLARS OF ACCOUNTABILITY

For Somalia to transition from a fragile state to a stable democracy, its core transparency institutions must be revitalized and granted true independence:

- **The Legislative Branch:** A cornerstone of democracy is the separation of powers. TSI advocates for a clear distinction between branches, noting that currently, nearly 60 out of 275 MPs hold executive roles, which severely limits the Parliament's ability to provide independent oversight.
- **The Auditor and Accountant General:** These offices are the guardians of public funds. TSI supports efforts to grant these offices full budgetary autonomy and to protect the appointment process from political interference.
- **The Anti-Corruption Commission:** Following the dissolution of the Independent Anti-Corruption Commission (IACC) in late 2022, TSI is leading calls for its immediate re-appointment with independent, technically qualified members to spearhead the fight against graft.

- **The Central Bank of Somalia (CBS):** While the CBS has made strides in modernization through the Somalia Instant Payment System (SIPS), TSI promotes the need for full political independence to ensure it functions as a true monetary authority rather than a government treasury.

PUBLIC PROCUREMENT AND ELECTIONS

Corruption risks remain high in these critical areas, and TSI advocates for:

- **Procurement Reform:** Removing political interference and nepotism from the federal tender process to ensure public resources are used for the common good.
- **Electoral Integrity:** Supporting independent oversight to prevent vote-buying and executive interference, ensuring legitimate political representation for all Somalis.

THE VITAL ROLE OF CIVIL SOCIETY AND MEDIA

- **Civil Society Organizations (CSOs):** The Transparency Somalia Initiative serves as the "third sector," bridging the gap between the state and its citizens. We foster citizen participation and ensure that government actions are responsive to the needs of the people.
- **The Media:** An independent press is vital for exposing abuse of power. TSI champions the protection of journalists and whistleblowers, recognizing that a free press is an essential watchdog for national accountability.

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CONCLUSION

Countering corruption in Somalia requires more than just policy; it requires the active rebuilding of institutions that ensure transparency and equity. By empowering oversight bodies and protecting civil space, the Transparency Somalia Initiative remains dedicated to securing a stable, just, and accountable future for all Somali citizens.



TRANSPARENCY
Somalia Initiative

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