

CONCEPT NOTE

COORDINATING MECHANISM OF NACS IMPLEMENTATION

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NACS
National
Anti-Corruption
Strategy



1. CONTEXT: STATEMENT OF PROBLEM

Corruption has caused frustration amongst people in many parts of the world, leading to instability. It poses a significant threat to the development and progress of any nation, undermines democracy and the rule of law, weakens institutions, restricts access to public services, diverts resources thus making public interventions less effective and threatens the credibility of the state. This erodes the quality of life and other threats to human security to flourish. The corruption phenomenon is found in all countries, and has a wide range of corrosive effects on societies. In South Africa, corruption is a key element in economic underperformance and a major obstacle to poverty alleviation and development. It hurts the poor disproportionately by diverting funds intended for development, undermines government's ability to provide basic services. Together with the weak rule of law, it discourages foreign and domestic investment which is essential for economic recovery and growth.

To combat corruption effectively, governments need to implement comprehensive strategies and establish robust monitoring mechanisms to track implementation, assess the delivery trajectory, and course-correct where necessary. In the case of South Africa, the National Anti-Corruption Strategy (NACS) serves as a vital tool in the fight against corruption.

One of the critical factors to the successful integration of efforts in implementing NACS is the creation or establishment of the necessary mechanisms to coordinate the various stakeholders. This is meant to ensure coherence, consistency and seamless implementation of the six pillars, as well as monitoring and evaluation thereof. Achievement of the NACS goals and success measures requires the concerted efforts of all stakeholders. Government alone will not successfully deliver on the strategic objectives outlined in the anti-corruption strategy. A key to the successful implementation is the expanded use of partnerships with a broader range of stakeholders in support of its six strategic pillars. The participation and commitment of all partners is crucial. Equally, an understanding of the work of all stakeholders will determine whether the most pressing anti-corruption efforts are realized.

The monitoring of the NACS is therefore important for the following reasons: building

public trust and confidence in the government's commitment to fighting corruption; enabling policymakers and stakeholders to gauge the effectiveness of anti-corruption measures, ensuring that resources are allocated efficiently; and identifying gaps and areas of improvement within the strategy's implementation. Monitoring equally increases transparency and accountability, making it harder for corruption to thrive.



2. COORDINATING INSTITUTIONS

The Department of Planning, Monitoring, and Evaluation (DPME) acts as a key partner in monitoring the NACS through its technical expertise and knowledge in planning, monitoring, and evaluation. Its primary responsibility is to develop and implement a monitoring framework that aligns with the NACS objectives; and conduct evaluations to assess progress made in implementing anti-corruption measures. In executing its mandate, the department has gained important insights into how government is implementing the country's anti-corruption strategy. The department is equally mindful of the support by developmental partners, and the need for increased focus on measures to prevent corruption by leveraging on innovative means to improve international cooperation. In this regard, strengthened coordination and integration is therefore key to ensure that the support is mutually reinforcing and the various stakeholders are able to draw on each other to ensure that all NACS pillars are supported to avoid duplication of effort.



The leadership of the coordination of NACS implementation, monitoring and evaluation resides with the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation in view of its delegated authority to coordinate across governments and all spheres. In addition, the Medium-Term Strategic Framework (MTSF), strategies and monitoring fall under its purview. The proposed coordinating mechanism also leverages the following key government stakeholders:



Presidency that plays a critical role in coordinating the monitoring efforts of the NACS. As the apex governing body, it provides the necessary leadership and direction to ensure effective implementation; sets the overall strategic vision, establishes clear objectives, and oversees the coordination among various stakeholders. Additionally, it ensures that the monitoring process is aligned with broader national goals and priorities.



The National Anti-Corruption Advisory Council (NACAC) that plays a crucial role in coordinating and providing strategic advice on anti-corruption initiatives. Composed of experts from various sectors, the council acts as a bridge between government institutions, civil society, and the private sector. In the context of monitoring the NACS, the NACAC provides oversight, guidance, and recommendations based on its expertise and independent analysis. Its involvement ensures a multi-stakeholder perspective, enhancing the credibility and effectiveness of the monitoring process.

3. NACS PILLARS

1

Citizen participation and mobilization - promote and encourage active citizenry, whistleblowing, integrity and transparency in all spheres of society.

2

Professional and skilled workforce - advance the professionalization of employees to optimize their contribution to create corruption-free workplaces.

3

Transparent and accountable governance systems – enhance governance, oversight and accountability in organizations in all sectors.

4

A culture of reporting and whistleblowing – improve the integrity, transparency and credibility of the public procurement system.

5

Protection of sectors most vulnerable to corruption – protect vulnerable sectors that are most prone to corruption and unethical practices with effective risk management.

6

Strengthening anti-corruption agencies – strengthen the resourcing, coordination, transnational cooperation, performance, accountability and independence of dedicated anti-corruption agencies.

4. AIM OF THE COORDINATING MECHANISM

In view of the importance of coordination and integration of all support towards reducing corruption in South Africa, DPME is undertaking a survey of development partners that contribute to NACS implementation. The survey will review the NACS pillars being supported by the respective programmes of bilateral and multilateral partners. The survey will also include the various work packages, projects or major activities in an effort to understand how NACS implementation is supported.

DPME plans to convene knowledge-sharing sessions of all development partners that support the country in its anti-corruption efforts. The purpose of the session is to create a platform for building partnerships and networking for addressing anti-corruption matters; to enhance learning and common understanding of how NACS implementation can be further strengthened; as well as to foster collaboration between government coordinating entities. The discussions will be guided by the NACS pillars, while considering South Africa's dynamic circumstances.

5. EXPECTED OUTCOME

The expected outcome of both the survey and knowledge-sharing session will benefit the coordinating government institutions to better understand the support which the country is receiving from international countries, and to have a clear picture of the spread of such support across all six NACS pillars. Survey results will be shared with the National Anti-Corruption Council (NACAC), the Forum of South African Directors General (FOSAD), International Development Cooperation (IDC) at National Treasury, and the Networking Forum on anti-corruption. The outcome will also inform DPME as it plans the new Medium-Term Strategic Framework (2024- 2029).

6. THE SURVEY

The survey will be administered electronically, the content of which will specifically focus on the following:

- a) The country and organization;
- b) The programme name, duration and value (budget);
- c) The South African partner organization/institution;
- d) NACS pillars which development partners contribute towards;
- e) A brief description of the anti-corruption program(s) and expected outcomes; and
- f) Government and non-government institutions being supported.

7. PARTICIPANTS

The survey and knowledge-sharing session on anti-corruption assistance to South Africa is supported by DPME, NACAC Secretariat, the Presidency who acknowledge the work of development partners in this sector. Participants will represent bilateral and multilateral development partners, including, amongst others:

a) Foreign and Commonwealth Development Office – UK

b) Global Affairs Canada

c) German Embassy

d) State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO)

e) Delegation of the European Union

f) Transparency, Integrity and Accountability Programme, GIZ

g) UNODC

h) OECD

i) World Bank

8. ABRIDGED PLAN

The abridged plan for the survey and knowledge-sharing session on anti-corruption support is outlined below:

Item	Timeframe	Responsibility
Prepare detailed Concept Note	October	DPME
Electronic survey instrument	November	DPME
Approval of Concept Note and survey instrument to on anti-corruption support by development partners	November	DPME/NACAC Secretariat
Official request to development partners to participate in survey and knowledge-sharing session	November	DPME
Conduct survey	January 2024	DPME
Analysis of survey findings	February 2024	DPME/NACAC Secretariat
Produce a report	February/ March 2024	DPME
Convene knowledge-sharing session with development partners	March 2024	DPME
Produce a comprehensive report on development partner support of NACS implementation	March 2024	DPME; NACAC Secretariat
Disseminate the final report to stakeholders	April 2024	

9. CONCLUSION

Coordinating support around the implementation of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy (NACS) is crucial for an effective and comprehensive approach to combating corruption in South Africa. The involvement of development partners ensures a multi-dimen-

sional perspective, technical expertise, transparency, and accountability. By working together, all stakeholders contribute to strengthening the NACS, promote good governance, and ultimately foster a corruption-free South Africa.



