

PRESS STATEMENT

2017 CORRUPTION PERCEPTIONS INDEX (CPI)

Accra, 21st February, 2018

Mr. Chairman, Members and the Board of GII, Representative from Transparency International, Berlin, Heads of Ministries, Departments and Agencies, Development Partners, CSO Partners and Friends from the Media, Ladies and Gentlemen Good evening and welcome to the launch of the 2017 CPI.

The 2017 Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) being released worldwide this evening by Transparency International (TI) scores and ranks 180 countries and territories by their perceived levels of public sector corruption. This year's index happens to mark the 25th anniversary since the inception of the CPI in 1995 and draws on 13 surveys of business people and expert assessments.

According to Transparency International, the 2017 CPI reveals some disturbing information that despite attempts to combat corruption globally, the majority of countries are moving too slowly in their efforts. While stemming the tide against corruption takes time, in the last six years, many countries have still made little to no progress. More than two-thirds of countries scored, fell below 50 on the 2017 CPI, with an average score of 43. Even more alarming, the analysis of the index indicates that countries with the worst rates of corruption also tend to pose the greatest threat to civil society and media.

GHANA'S PERFORMANCE

The 2017 CPI scored Ghana **40** out of a possible clean score of **100** and ranked the country **81** out of 180 countries/territories included in this year's index. The 2017 CPI used nine (9) out of the thirteen (13) data sources of independent institutions with high level of credibility to compute the index for Ghana. The sources, their corresponding scores and year are as follows:

NO.	DATA SOURCE¹	SCORE	YEAR
1	World Bank Country Policy and Institutional Assessment	35	2017
2	World Economic Forum Executive Opinion Survey	35	2017
3	Global Insight Country Risk Ratings	35	2016
4	Bertelsmann Foundation Transformation Index	41	2017
5	African Development Bank Country Policy and Institutional Assessment	47	2016
6	World Justice Project Rule of law Index Expert Survey	36	2017
7	The Political Risk Service International Country Risk Guide	47	2017
8	Varieties of Democracy Project (V-Dem)	33	2017
9	Economist Intelligence Unit Country Risk Service	55	2017
10	Bertelsmann Stiftung Sustainable Governance Indicators	-	2017
11	Freedom House Nations in Transit	-	2017
12	Political and Economic Risk Consultancy Asian Intelligence	-	2017
13	IMD World Competitiveness Center World Competitiveness Yearbook Executive Opinion Survey	-	2017

¹ The dash or blank spaces represent the data sources which were not used to calculate Ghana's score.

The Index shows that Ghana’s performance has **dropped by 3 points** from its 2016 score of 43 and **7 points cumulatively from the 2015 score of 47**. This score is the lowest in Ghana’s CPI score since 2012 when CPI scores became comparable. According to TI, an average score of less than 50 shows serious corruption problem.

GHANA’S PERFORMANCE VIS A VIS OTHER SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN COUNTRIES

It is worthy of note that, although Ghana performed better than 36 other Sub-Saharan African countries including Benin 39, Swaziland 38, Zambia 37, Tanzania 36, she nonetheless performed below 11 other Sub-Saharan African countries - (see Table).

COUNTRY	2017 SSA RANKING	2016 SSA RANKING	2017 SCORE	2016 SCORE	2017 WORLD RANKING	2016 WORLD RANKING
Botswana	1	1	61	60	34	35
Seychelles	2	-	60	-	36	-
Cape Verde	3	2	55	59	48	38
Rwanda	3	3	55	54	48	50
Namibia	5	5	51	52	53	53
Mauritius	6	3	50	54	54	50
São Tomé and Príncipe	7	6	46	46	64	62
Senegal	8	7	45	45	66	64
South Africa	9	7	43	45	71	64
Burkina Faso	10	10	42	42	74	72
Lesotho	10	11	42	39	74	83
Ghana	12	9	40	43	81	70

Burkina Faso and Lesotho overtook Ghana when compared with the 2016 index. Burkina Faso and Lesotho had performed below Ghana in 2016 while Seychelles did not feature in the 2016 CPI.

The 2017 CPI score indicates that, in spite of Ghana’s numerous efforts at fighting corruption, the canker is still a serious problem. Ghana’s score of 40 points is a likely reflection of the inadequate investigations, prosecutions and sanctioning of corruption during the period the 9 data sources covered i.e. 2016 (2 data sources) and 2017 (7 data sources).

It is important to remind ourselves of the plethora of corruption allegations/exposés during the period in question which might have influenced the perception of the respondents to the surveys as well as the business experts – examples include the 2016 election related corruption issues, Bus Branding scandal, Ghana Standards Authority \$1.2m Corruption Scandal, Central Medical Stores Arson Saga, National Lottery Authority bribery and numerous adverse findings in annual Audit Reports on the Public Sector.²

THE AFRICAN PICTURE

In Sub-Saharan Africa, Botswana continues to maintain her first position with slightly improved score of 61 points compared to 60 points in 2016. The global ranking of Botswana also improved slightly

² Other allegations and exposés include: parliamentary vetting bribery scandal, the US\$2.5 billion bond issuance saga, the sale of 5 million gallons of contaminated fuel at BOST, the cash-for-seat allegations, financial malfeasance at the EC, AMERI Power deal, NCA US\$4 million scandal, the US\$72 million SSNIT software scandal and the €2.4 million National Ambulance contract scandal.

from 35 in 2016 to 34 in 2017. It is also worth noting that over the last six years, Côte d'Ivoire and Senegal have improved their CPI scores.

Although Sub-Saharan Africa has the highest number of countries (49 countries) among the six geopolitical regional groupings, the region has the least average score of 32 points which is less than half of the average score of 66 points for Western Europe and the European Union region. Overall, only 6 out of the 49 Sub-Saharan African countries scored above 50 compared to the Americas – 11, Asia Pacific – 9, Western Europe and European Union region – 26.

Notwithstanding that, Sub-Sahara Africa is the only region that registered an increase in the average score over 2016, many Sub-Saharan African countries are as usual dominating the bottom of the CPI with Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Guinea Bissau, Equatorial Guinea, Angola, Eritrea, and Chad scoring 9, 12, 16, 17, 17, 19, 20, and 20 with global rankings of 180, 179, 171, 171, 167, 166, and 166 respectively.

It is important to point out that CPI separates Arab Maghreb North African states of Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya and Egypt from Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) region and puts them together with Middle East countries as the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region.

GLOBAL PERFORMANCE

The 2017 CPI ranks **New Zealand** and **Denmark** highest with scores of **89** and **88** respectively. **Syria**, **South Sudan** and **Somalia** rank lowest with scores of **14**, **12** and **9** respectively. The best performing region is Western Europe with an average score of 66. The worst performing regions are Sub-Saharan Africa (average score 32), Eastern Europe and Central Asia (average score 34).

The analysis of the index results by TI reveals a correlation between corruption levels, the protection of free speech and engagement with civil society in open dialogue. Top-performing countries to have lower levels of corruption, conversely, the worst-performing countries that repress the mouthpiece of their citizens and media, often score worse on the index.

WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE

Globally, it is acknowledged that digitalisation is changing the ways we communicate, how we work and how we do business. The Alliance for Integrity posits that advanced technology is enabling new risk management tools to monitor and detect fraud automatically. It is in line with this that GII acknowledges the fact that some of the new initiatives started by government such as the Paperless Port Clearing System, E-Procurement and the Digital Addressing System could improve business integrity and ultimately reduce corruption in the public sector.

Another area requiring digitalisation is the implementation of the Infrastructure for Poverty Eradication Programme (IPEP) in addition to putting in place clear policy guidelines among others to reduce red tape and eliminate opportunities for people entrusted with power to misuse it for private gain.

Specifically, GII recommends the following that:

- Government should demonstrate more practical commitment to fighting corruption by enacting key legislation such as the Right to Information (RTI), Witness Protection, and the Conduct of Public Officer's Bill

- The newly created Office of the Special Prosecutor together with anti-corruption institutions such as the Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ) should be adequately resourced
- Government and businesses must do more to encourage an open and engaged civil society
- Civil society should continue to hold political and institutional leadership accountable and citizens should report corruption when they become victims and witnesses of same as prescribed by the National Anti-Corruption Action Plan (NACAP)
- Ghana must prioritise the mainstreaming of anti-corruption measures into the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals in order to achieve the target of substantially reducing bribery and corruption by 2030

Ghana Integrity Initiative (GII) is the local chapter of Transparency International (TI), the global civil society organisation leading the fight against corruption

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About the Corruptions Perceptions Index

Since its inception in 1995, the [Corruption Perceptions Index](http://www.transparency.org), Transparency International's flagship publication, is the leading global indicator of public sector corruption. The index offers an annual snapshot of the relative degree of corruption by ranking countries from all over the globe. For more information, visit www.transparency.org/research/cpi