

Press Release:

For Immediate Release!!!

CORRUPTION PERCEPTIONS INDEX 2025:

**Ghana spins back to score 43 and ranked 76:
Anti-Corruption Efforts of Government Not Making
Significant Impact**

10th February 2026

Ghana's 2025 CPI score is 43 out of 100, ranking 76th among 182 countries assessed in the Corruption Perception Index (CPI). The score indicates that Ghana continues to struggle with persistent corruption, weak compliance with and enforcement of the legal and policy framework, and weak state institutions dedicated to combating corruption. The country has remained at a CPI score of 43 since 2020, slipping to 42 in 2024. Despite the increase in the country's score, this does not constitute a significant change per the CPI methodology.

Ghana's highest CPI score was in 2014, at 48 out of 100. Since then, the country has continued a downward trajectory until 2018, when the exuberance of a new government gave Ghanaians a fresh lease of hope, leading to an improvement from 40 in 2017 to 41 in 2018 and 2019. Since then, Ghana's CPI has hovered around 43 out of 100.

What accounted for Ghana's score?

Research by Transparency International shows that "corruption is not inevitable. Countries with long-term improvements in CPI scores have largely seen sustained efforts by political leaders and regulators to implement broad legal and institutional reforms. Persistently low or declining CPI scores usually go hand in hand with limited or eroding democratic checks and balances, the politicisation of justice systems, undue influence over political processes, and a failure to safeguard civic space. Unsurprisingly, countries with full democracies tend to score highly on the CPI, while non-democratic regimes perform the worst."

Below is a graph showing Ghana's scores over the period.



Even though 2025 saw efforts to increase transparency in corruption investigation and prosecution by the state, including the Office of the Special Prosecutor, the dismissal of the former Chief Justice and the various petitions for the removal of heads of various independent institutions smacks of politicisation of

the Judiciary and law enforcement and undue influences by the executive. Also, the discontinuation of corruption cases involving members of the ruling government through a 60:40 settlement raised eyebrows among Ghanaians and dampened expectations raised by the publication of Operation Recover All Loot (ORAL).

François Valérien, Board Chair, Transparency International Says:

“In an interconnected world, we need both national action and multilateral cooperation to protect the public interest and tackle shared challenges like corruption. At a time when we’re seeing a dangerous disregard for international norms from some states, we need to protect a rules-based global order that is grounded in transparency, accountability to citizens and respect for human rights.”

Global Trends and Implications

Corruption is worsening globally, with even established democracies experiencing rising corruption amid a decline in leadership. This annual index shows that the number of countries scoring above 80 has shrunk from 12 a decade ago to just five this year. The global average score stands at 42 out of 100, its lowest level in more than a decade, pointing to a concerning downward trend that will need to be monitored over time. Many countries are failing to keep corruption under control: more than two-thirds (122 out of 180) score under 50.

Countries including the United States (64), Canada (75), New Zealand (81), the United Kingdom (70), France (66), and Sweden (80). The United States is of particular interest due to actions such as the temporary freeze and weakening of enforcement of the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, which signal tolerance for corrupt business practices, and cuts to U.S. aid for overseas civil society. These actions have weakened global anti-corruption efforts.

Sub-Saharan Africa CPI Performance in 2025

Sub-Saharan Africa ranks lowest on the global index of 182 countries. Ten of the 49 countries in the region have significantly deteriorated since 2012, while only seven have improved over the same period, underscoring that current anti-corruption efforts are not yielding the expected results. While the global average score is 42 out of 100, Sub-Saharan Africa’s average score is 32 out of 100, underscoring the region's dysfunctional anti-corruption efforts. Corruption in the management of public funds, a reflection of a lack of political integrity among leaders, is a key factor in the region's low CPI score, according to Transparency International.

Recommendations for Reforms

Transparency International is calling on governments and leaders worldwide to;

1. Strengthen justice systems, protect their independence and welcome the Chief Justice’s decision to fast-track the creation of the anti-corruption courts, which will aid the expeditious adjudication of corruption-related cases.
2. TI Ghana also call on parliament to hasten the Community Tribunal Bill, which has been penned as one of the bills to receive attention of parliament during the current sitting
3. TI Ghana also recommends the expeditious adoption of the National Ethics and Anti-Corruption Plan (NEACAP)
4. Cultural reorientation to pay attention to issues of ethics, such as the campaign by the IGP to promote personnel who demonstrated integrity in the line of duty
5. It is important to promote a friendly business environment. TI Ghana, therefore call on all state regulatory agencies like the Office of the Registrar of Companies, GPHA, GRA, Ghana Standards Authority and Food and Drugs Authority (FDA) to promote ethical business standards and facilitate transparency and integrity in doing business in Ghana
6. Reform political party financing regulations to ensure transparency and accountability in their fundraising and utilisation

7. Protect civic space, democracy, and media freedom.
8. Ghana must strengthen awareness of Designated Non-Financial Businesses and Professions (DNFBPs) of their anti-money laundering obligations to control illicit financial flows (IFF)

In conclusion, TI-Ghana reiterates that the CPI serves as a warning signal, not a verdict. However, Ghana's performance reflects persistent weaknesses in enforcement, political accountability, and institutional effectiveness. Addressing this requires urgent action to strengthen the justice system, safeguard institutional independence, regulate political party financing, and ensure transparency in public office. Defensive responses will not change perceptions; consistent action will. With sustained political will and measurable reforms, Ghana can rebuild public trust and improve its anti-corruption outcomes over time.

##End##

For further information and media engagements, contact TI-Ghana:

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#CPI2025

About the Corruption Perceptions Index

Since its inception in 1995, the Corruption Perceptions Index has become the leading global indicator of public sector corruption. The Index scores 180 countries and territories worldwide based on perceptions of public-sector corruption, using data from 13 external sources, including the World Bank, the World Economic Forum, private risk and consulting firms, think tanks, and others. The scores reflect the views of experts and businesspeople. The CPI calculation process is regularly reviewed to ensure it is as robust and coherent as possible, most recently by the European Commission's Joint Research Centre in 2017. All CPI scores since 2012 have been comparable from year to year. For more information, visit www.transparency.org/cpi.