

## Zimbabwe: Tougher Legislation Needed to Fight Graft

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THE government should expedite the passing of legislation dealing with graft as well as fully fund key anti-corruption organisations.

This was said by African Parliamentarians Network Against Corruption (APNAC) chairperson and Kambuzuma legislator, Willas Madzimore, at an event marking Anti-corruption Day in Harare on Monday.

"APNAC Zimbabwe calls for the speedy enactment of an act of Parliament required under Section 198 of the Constitution, which will go a long way in ensuring corrupt, free a Zimbabwe," Madzimore said.

Section 198 of the new Constitution requires the legislature to enact a law forcing public officers to make regular disclosures of their assets and establish codes of conduct to be observed by public officers.

The ruling Zanu PF party had in the early 80s a code of ethics that required public disclosure but abandoned the practise midstream.

Zimbabwe Anti -Corruption Commission (ZACC) chairperson Denford Chirindo said the government needed to make sure institutions like his were fully funded.

"There are issues to do with capacity and funding that are very fundamental to the existence of organisations such as ZACC," he said.

"Zimbabwe has since been ranked number 157 among the most corrupt countries in the world but we gained 6 places to 177 this year meaning we are improving."

However, last week Chirindo dismissed the Transparency International (TI) ranking arguing the global-anti-graft lobby group was discredited.

"We have to ask who Transparency International is and who its masters are. They have to justify the funding they receive as a non-governmental organisation," he said then.

"I was in Vienna (Austria) early this year at a conference organised by United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and they (TI) failed to justify their rankings."

In its report on the corruption perception index this year, TI revealed that Zimbabwe had moved positively by six places, a situation the local chapter TI-Zimbabwe said was not a cause for celebration.

The lobbyists also called for the inclusion of anti-corruption in the country's curriculum at a tender age to raise awareness about the scourge.

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