



# A presentation made at the occasion of GOPAC Meeting

8<sup>th</sup> -9<sup>th</sup> March 2023

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# I. INTRODUCTION

The Parliament of Rwanda is bicameral composed of the Chamber of Deputies whose members are known as “Deputies” and the Senate whose members are known as “Senators”.

The Chamber of Deputies is composed of 80 Deputies and the Senate is composed of 26 Senators. At least thirty percent (30%) of both Deputies and Senators must be women

- Chamber of Deputies: Men: 39% and Women: 61%
- Senate: Men: 64% and Women: 36%

In general, Rwanda is well ranked in fighting corruption by Corruption Perception Index (CPI 2021) where by in this report Rwanda is ranked on 52<sup>nd</sup> worldwide, on 5<sup>th</sup> in Africa and 1<sup>st</sup> in Easter Africa Region (EAC)

# I. INTRODUCTION (Cont')

- **Tools that help Rwanda in fighting corruption:**
  - ✓ Rwanda ratified UNCAC on 4th October 2006. Since then, a lot of things have been done in terms of institutions and laws;
  - ✓ The political will of the government
  - ✓ The Zero-tolerance for corruption
  - ✓ Anti-corruption policy in place
  - ✓ Institutions in place that fight against corruption such as:  
Office of the Ombudsman, National Public Prosecution Authority, Financial Intelligence Center, Rwanda Investigation Bureau, Rwanda Public Procurement Authority, National Commission for human rights, Transparency International Rwanda, Etc.

## **II. MISSION OF THE PARLIAMENT**

### **II.1. The Parliament debates and passes laws**

The parliament's role in fight against corruption is embedded in its responsibility of deliberating and passing laws

### **II.2. It legislates and exercises control over the Executive**

The parliament has the power of oversight and through that power it ensures effective implementation of laws and policies in place to fight against corruption

# III. THE PARLIAMENT'S TOOLS FOR FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION

## III.1. The Standing Committees:

### III.1.1. The Committee on Political Affairs and Gender is responsible for issues relating to:

- ✓ State administration and relations between public institutions;
- ✓ Justice and Media;
- ✓ national non-governmental organizations, international non-governmental organization and faith-based organizations;
- ✓ fight against corruption and other related offences;
- ✓ consideration of the report of the Office of Ombudsman and Rwanda Governance Board and preparation of draft recommendations to the Plenary Assembly within six (6) months of the tabling of such a report before the Plenary Assembly;
- ✓ follow-up on the application of laws relating to its responsibilities.

# III. THE PARLIAMENT'S TOOLS FOR FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION (Cont')

## III.1.2. Public Accounts Committee responsible for:

Analysis of the report of the Auditor General of State Finance (the report may show to the Parliament probable corruption/ embezzlement /fraud in the use of state's finances for the Parliament to act).

While analyzing the Auditor General report, the members of these Public Account Committee used to hold accountable in the so called "Public hearing" different head of the government institutions that have not obtain clean audit report (Qualified reports), so that they can explain in front of these committee what went wrong

# III. THE PARLIAMENT'S TOOLS FOR FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION (Cont')

## III.1.3. The African Parliamentarians Network Against Corruption (APNAC) Rwanda chapter:

- ✓ It is affiliated to the Network of African Parliamentarians Network Against Corruption (APNAC) working in more than 25 African countries, including Rwanda
- ✓ Created January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2005 to support Rwandan Government action in preventing and fighting against corruption and related offences, with the framework of parliamentary diplomacy.
- ✓ It counts up to 80 members of Parliament from both the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate.



## IV. KEY LAWS IN FIGHTING AGAINST CORRUPTION

- ✓ The Constitution of the Republic of Rwanda of 2003 revised in 2015: Art. 139 provides for the Office of the Ombudsman and the Office of the Auditor General of State Finances.
- ✓ Law N°68/2018 of 30/08/2018 determining Offences and Penalties in General
- ✓ Organic Law N° 61/2008 of 10/09/2008 On the Leadership Code of Conduct
- ✓ Law N° 54/2018 of 13/08/2018 on fighting against corruption
- ✓ Law N° 04/2013 of 08/02/2013 Relating to Access to Information
- ✓ Law N°44bis/2017 of 06/09/2017 relating to the protection of Whistle Blowers

# KEY LAWS IN FIGHTING CORRUPTION (Cont')

**In Particularly,**

**This Law N°44bis/2017 of 06/09/2017 relating to the protection of Whistle Blowers:**

- ✓ Meant to protect whistle blowers with a view to safeguarding public interest.
- ✓ Defines illegal act or behavior as any act which violates the code of conduct or professional ethics committed by authorities or employees in public or private institutions.
- ✓ Victimization of a whistle blower is liable for a term of imprisonment of not less than three (3) years but not exceeding five (5) years and a fine not less than one million but not exceeding two million Rwandan francs.

# V. APNAC'S APPROACH TO FIGHTING AGAINST CORRUPTION

APNAC-Rwanda mission supports the constitutional principle stipulated in article 10 of the Constitution of Rwanda. The principle states: *“building a State committed to promoting social welfare and establishing appropriate mechanisms for equal opportunity to social justice”*.

## ✓ The pillars of the APNAC include:

- Institutional and capacity building
- Prevention and fight against corruption initiatives
- Development of partnerships

# APNAC'S APPROACH TO FIGHTING AGAINST CORRUPTION (cont.)

- ❑ **Advocating on issues of corruption related laws and consider room for improvement in a bid to combat corruption**
- ❑ **Reinforcing the parliamentarians' capacities in prevention, fighting against corruption through legislative mission of the parliament and overseeing government activities:** This is done through regular trainings for its members on the new forms of corruption and how to prevent and fight against it. In collaboration with Ombudsman Office, Rwanda Investigation Bureau (RIB), Office of the ombudsman, Transparency International – Rwanda, National Public Prosecutor Authority.
- ❑ **Setting up strategies and programs to prevent and fight against corruption and related offences:**
  - ✓ The Forum organizes radio shows that are aired on radio and facilitate exchange between members and people on different topics in different sectors.
  - ✓ Sensitizing the population on harmful consequences of corruption and related offences

# APNAC'S APPROACH TO FIGHTING AGAINST CORRUPTION (cont.)

- ❑ **Sensitizing the population on harmful consequences of corruption and related offences:**
  - ✓ The forum visits different Universities and Higher Learning Institutions (HLI), Secondary Schools and other different groups of people across the country and they are shown the position of Rwanda in fighting against corruption and how bad corruption is to our development and measures that our country envisages in fighting corruption.
  - ✓ Members of the Forum visit people in their local villages through the activity called **Umuganda “community work”** in a bid to exchange with them about corruption related issues and request them to play their role in fighting corruption.

# APNAC'S APPROACH TO FIGHTING AGAINST CORRUPTION(cont.)

## ❑ **Creating awareness on actions of parliament in preventing and fighting against corruption:**

- ✓ Through this activity the forum exchanges with different partners that are involved in fighting corruption to monitor how policies and programs that fight against corruption are put in place or be implemented in all districts and in different sectors
- ✓ The Forum also organizes consultative meetings on challenges of combating corruption and measures or recommendations that are formulated are so much helpful in fighting corruption.

## ❑ **Exchanging information with other partners:**

- ✓ The Forum collaborates with different government institutions and civil society organizations.

# OPPORTUNITIES WORTH EXPLORING

- The political will to fight corruption
- Zero tolerance on corruption
- Anti-corruption policy in place
- Institutions set up to fight corruption.

**Ex:** Office of Ombudsman, Auditor General office (OAG), Public Account Committee (PAC), Rwanda Investigation Bureau (RIB), APNAC RWANDA, the Advisory Council on fighting against Corruption and Injustice, Transparency International-Rwanda

# CHALLENGES EXISTING IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION

- Persistence of corruption in sophisticated forms despite the sensitization made until today
- Gaps in the legal framework on corruption and related offenses across the region
- Difficulties in providing evidence on suspected cases of corruption and related offenses
- Witnesses of corruption are still few, even though there are laws that protect them.



**“Holding people accountable for corruption has a huge political cost but it is not as high as corruption itself”.**



**THANKS**