



Ghana Integrity Initiative (GII)

Local Chapter of Transparency International

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Eighth Africa Union Anti-Corruption Day

“A CALL FOR AN “EFFECTIVE WHISTLEBLOWERS PROTECTION MECHANISM: A CRITICAL TOOL IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION”.

The Ghana Integrity Initiative (GII), the national chapter of Transparency International (TI), on the 8th anniversary of the Africa Anti-Corruption Day, joins the rest of Africa to call for an effective implementation of the Whistleblowers Act. GII further commends the African Union for recognising the important role of whistleblowers in the fight against corruption as is evident in this year’s theme: “*Effective Whistleblowers Protection Mechanism: A Critical Tool in the Fight Against Corruption.*”

Ghana passed a Whistleblower Act, 2006 (Act 720) that provided legal protections and incentives to all persons who report corrupt practices and other illicit activities that militated against the development and growth of the country. The Act empowers victims and witnesses of corruption to disclose information about observed corrupt or unlawful activities and offers protection and rewards to whistleblowers.

Following over 2 decades of implementing the Whistleblowers Act, the Parliament of Ghana amended the Act in 2023 to widen the funding streams to enable the establishment of the Whistleblower Reward Fund as provided by the Act.

Also, Section 72(3) of the Office of the Special Prosecutor (OSP) Act 2017 (Act 959) acknowledges the witness protection provided for in the Whistleblowers Act in addition to the protection provided for in sections 72(1) and 72(2) of the OSP Act. Furthermore, in 2018, the Parliament of Ghana passed the Witness Protection Act, 2018 (Act 975) which establishes a Witness Protection Programme for endangered persons who as a result of providing information to law enforcement agencies about corruption and other offenses are exposed to the risk of harm or threats.

However, despite all the legislation passed on Whistleblower Protection, the 2019 Global Corruption Barometer survey reports fear of retribution among the citizens hence low corruption reporting in the country.

GII Call for Action

Therefore, on the occasion of the 8th Africa Union Anti-Corruption Day, GII calls on the government to establish and resource the Whistleblower Reward Fund as provided for in the Whistleblower (Amendment) Act, 2023 (Act 1103) and increase public education on the law to encourage victims and witnesses of corruption to report corruption. Public entities such as the NCCE and CHRAJ as well as CSOs must also increase public awareness among the citizenry on the provisions of the laws to ensure that citizens are empowered enough to report corruption.

Finally, GII calls on citizens to fulfill their civic responsibility of reporting corruption. Let us all work to renounce, reject, and report corruption to promote national development.

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