



## PRESS RELEASE

### CORRUPTION PERCEPTIONS INDEX 2024:

#### **GHANA’S ANTI-CORRUPTION EFFORTS DECLINE AS SCORE DROPS FOR THE FIRST TIME IN FIVE YEARS**

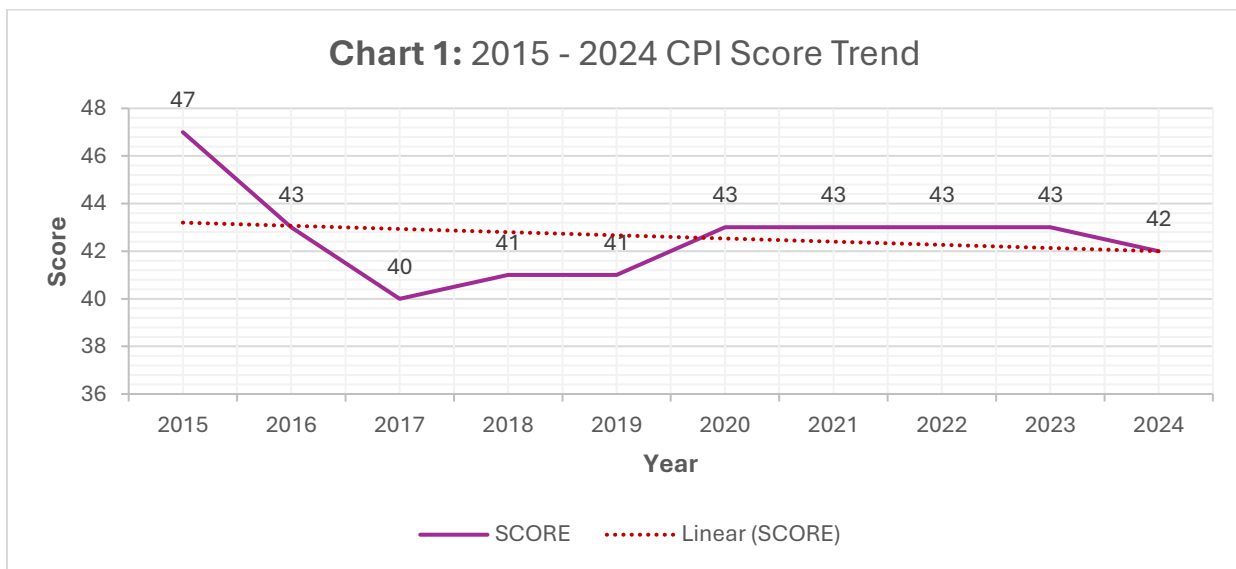
*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

*Accra, 11<sup>th</sup> February 2025*

Over the past decade corruption remains a critical governance issue influencing citizens decisions on the performance of governments across the globe. Despite several efforts to address this menace, Ghana’s performance on the Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) is still below the average of 50 out of a 100 clean score.

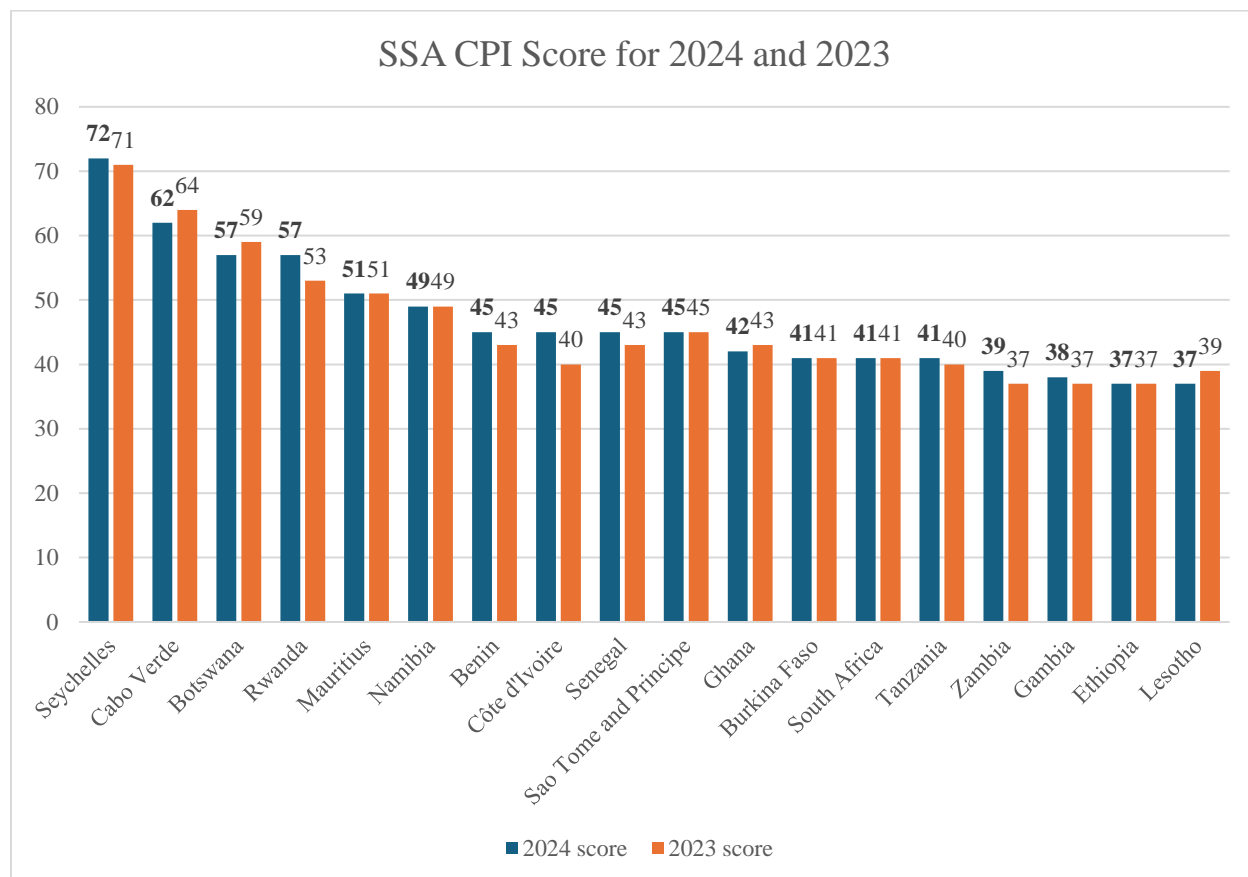
Ghana has scored 42 out of a clean score of 100 in the CPI 2024, ranking 80<sup>th</sup> out of 180 countries and territories assessed in this year’s report released by Transparency International (TI). This marks a decline from Ghana’s score of 43 in 2023, signaling a setback in the country's anti-corruption efforts.

Since 2015 (a 10-year trend as depicted in Chart 1), Ghana has dropped 5 points on the CPI, reflecting persistent challenges in tackling corruption despite various policy interventions and institutional reforms. The decline suggests that the policy, legal and administrative reforms require further review and strengthening.



## Ghana's Performance in Sub-Saharan Africa

With a score of 42, Ghana ranks 11th among 49 Sub-Saharan African (SSA) countries included in the index, alongside Albania. Ghana's performance is behind regional leaders such as Seychelles (72), Cabo Verde (62), Botswana (57), Rwanda (57), and Mauritius (51) who scored above 50 but ahead of countries like Burkina Faso (41), South Africa (41), and Tanzania (41). A comparison between 2024 and 2023 first 20 SSA countries is depicted below:



In 2024, the Sub-Saharan African region once again registered the lowest average score on the Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI), at just 33 out of 100, with 90 per cent of countries scoring below 50. Yet amid this very low annual performance, there were African countries that invested in anti-corruption and made remarkable progress.

For example, Tanzania (41) has gained 10 points since 2014, as corrupt officials finally faced consequences for their actions. Over the last decade, it has become widespread practice for high-level public officials suspected of corruption to be immediately relieved of their duties, with law enforcement launching investigations. The country has also established a specialised court committed to the prosecution of corruption and economic crime.

## Global Trends and Implications

The CPI 2024 highlights a worrying trend: over two-thirds of countries worldwide scored below 50, indicating serious corruption problems in the public sector. The global average remains at 43, showing little progress over the past decade. Countries with weak democratic institutions, ineffective law enforcement, and inadequate anti-corruption frameworks continue to perform poorly, reinforcing the urgent need for systemic reforms.

**François Valérien, Chair of Transparency International said:**

“Corruption is an evolving global threat that does far more than undermine development – it is a key cause of declining democracy, instability and human rights violations. The international community and every nation must make tackling corruption a top and long-term priority. This is crucial to pushing back against authoritarianism and securing a peaceful, free and sustainable world. The dangerous trends revealed in this year's Corruption Perception Index highlight the need to follow through with concrete action now to address global corruption.”

**Corruption and the Climate Crisis**

This year's CPI draws attention to the intersection between corruption and the climate crisis. Corruption undermines climate action by diverting crucial resources meant for environmental protection and adaptation.

Corruption also damages the environment. Higher levels of corruption at the national level have been linked to weaker environmental policies, and any regulations that do exist may not get enforced because corruption undermines institutions in charge of environmental regulation and oversight.

Land and environmental defenders are frequently at the forefront of the fight against the climate crisis, but their efforts expose them to intimidation, violence and even murder. This is most common in countries with serious corruption problems – almost all 1,013 murders of environmental defenders since 2019 (documented by Global Witness) took place in countries with CPI scores below 50. This is because corruption plays an important role in enabling those attacks in the first place, and in helping perpetrators avoid justice.

In Ghana, corruption remains a significant challenge, particularly in the allocation of mining licenses, where abuse of power and discretion threaten the integrity of natural resources such as forests and water bodies. A striking example is the recent attack on three staff members of the Multimedia Group Limited, including journalist Erastus Asare Donkor, by armed men allegedly working for Edelmetallum Resources Limited, a mining company in the Ashanti Region. This incident highlights the dangers faced by journalists and the broader implications of corruption in the mining sector.

**Recommendations**

To reverse this troubling trend, Ghana Integrity Initiative (GII) calls on the new government to implement the following key recommendations:

1. **Enhance the legislature's oversight role:** Parliament should enhance its financial oversight responsibilities by empowering the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) with enforcement authority and establish the Budget and Fiscal Analysis Department (BFAD). This will enhance fiscal discipline and prevent the mismanagement of public funds.
2. **Establish a specialized anti-corruption court:** The Judiciary should establish a specialized anti-corruption court to handle corruption-related cases with speed and efficiency like in the case of Tanzania. This dedicated court should have well-trained personnel with expertise in anti-corruption.

3. **Merit-based appointment into civil and public services:** The President must depoliticize the civil and public services by instituting a merit-based appointment system overseen by an independent civil and public service commission, ensuring that recruitment and promotions are grounded in professional competence rather than political patronage. This reform will reduce opportunities for corruption by minimizing politically motivated appointments that often lead to mismanagement and abuse of public resources.
4. **Protect whistleblowers and journalists:** Stronger legal protections must be established for individuals exposing corruption, ensuring a safe environment for accountability efforts.
5. **Enact the Conduct of Public Officers' and Internal Audit Agency Bills:** The Executive should prioritise the passage of the Conduct of Public Officers' Bill to strengthen the legal framework on asset declaration, conflict of interest, and sanctions for non-compliance. The Executive should also prioritise the passage of the Internal Audit Agency Bill to empower the agency to conduct lifestyle audits to address corruption related matters on unexplained wealth.
6. **Enhance transparency in climate finance:** Government agencies must develop standardized systems for tracking climate finance flows, expenditures, and outcomes at national and local levels.
7. **Review political party financing law:** Engage stakeholders to review political party financing laws to reduce undue influence on governance.

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**#CPI2024**