

ABOUT THE CAMPAIGN

In March 2021, anti-apartheid veteran Reverend Frank Chikane, activists and civil society organisations heeded the call of the South African Council of Churches to stand up to attempts aimed at destabilising the country.

The rallying call was to mobilise people to be the 'last line of defence' of our democracy against corruption and capture, and against destabilisation aimed at avoiding accountability.

Rev Chikane, together with Cheryl Carolus, Professor Saths Cooper, Busisiwe Mavuso, Mavuso Msimang, Neeshan Balton, Sipho Pityana, Brigalia Bam, Adrian Gore and Reverend Moss Nthla convened the campaign.

The conveners now form part of a National Democracy Forum consisting of close to 100 leaders from across various sectors, who are interested in deepening and enhancing democracy in South Africa.

The campaign executive consists of: Frank Chikane, Fazel Randera, Sheila Sisulu, Murphy Morobe, Neeshan Balton, Trish Hanekom, Moss Nthla, Nick Binedell, Dipak Patel, Mojanku Gumbi and Zaakirah Vadi.

Some 70 organisations and over 13 000 people signed the campaign's founding document, which read:

"We, the people from every political, racial, gender, ethnic, religious, linguistic, cultural and class backgrounds, united under and loyal to our Constitution, must now reclaim what has given us collective dignity, self-respect and the admiration of the world. We therefore, call on all people of goodwill to vigorously oppose this threat to our democracy and to stand united against those intent on violating the values and principles embodied in our Constitution. Our resistance must be resolute against those determined to make a wasteland of this great country."

The aims of the campaign:

Defending our constitutional democracy – eradicate state capture and stop the **corruption and looting** in the public and private sector.

Calling for action to be taken against **destabilisation by anti-democratic forces**.

Speaking up against unwarranted and unsubstantiated attacks on the **independent judiciary**.


Demanding **accountability** and deepening participatory democracy to achieve socio-economic justice.

Simultaneously supporting campaigns of **"affiliated"** sectors and organisations in support of the democratic rights of ordinary people, particularly the underprivileged, emphasising that corruption and looting has affected socio-economic rights.




GET IN TOUCH WITH THE CAMPAIGN:

 **Email:** defendourdemocracy1@gmail.com

 **Twitter:** ForDemocracySa

 **Facebook:** Defend our Democracy SA

 **TikTok:** @defendourdemocracy

ANTI-CORRUPTION WEEK

3-10 December

Annually, December 9th is marked as Anti-Corruption Day across the globe. In a build up to the day in South Africa, the Defend our Democracy Campaign want to pioneer the concept of Anti-Corruption Week.

The week is expected to run from 3-10 December 2021.

While the 9th is a high point in the week, the 10th is International Human Rights Day and provides an opportunity to culminate the week's activities by reflecting on how corruption affects basic human rights.

The purpose of the week:

Drawing the linkages between corruption and capture and deteriorating level of services, and in turn, the lifestyles of ordinary people.

Uniting and mobilising South Africans in demonstrating their opposition to, and disapproval of, the lack of accountability for corruption and capture, and the impunity with which current corruption persists.

Demanding from government an efficient response to, and implementation of mechanisms against, corruption and capture.

This year's theme for the week is: *United in Action Against Corruption*

We want to reiterate calls for accountability for corruption, transparency around public procurement, and 'recovery with integrity', particularly in light of Covid-19 corruption.

While there are many 'sites of corruption', this year, there are several key sectors where the spotlight needs to be shone. We want to highlight the severe impact of corruption within these five areas:

Health services; energy provision; the delivery of water and sanitation; municipalities/local government, and on whistleblowers and honest public servants.



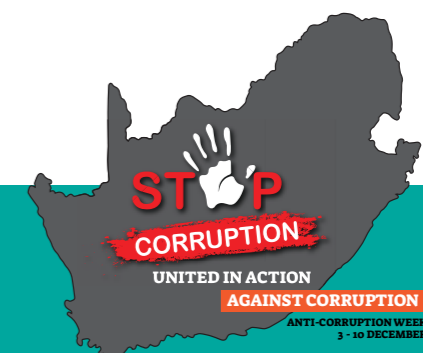
There must be **accountability** for public and private sector networks, institutions and individuals involved in capture and corruption. We must reiterate the call for orange overalls for the corrupt!



There must be **transparency** around public procurement, ownership of companies, political party funding and lifestyle audits of all public representatives.



South Africa must 'recover with integrity'. To renew our democracy, we must put in place measures to prevent current corruption, especially at a local level where it affects basic service delivery. We must also recover from the many years in which corruption has prevented our Constitutional vision from being realised. Our recovery from the impact of the C19 pandemic, and the disease of corruption, must be one that prioritises equality and puts the people's interests first.



How to support Anti-Corruption Week?

The week provides individuals, organisations, unions, businesses, communities, faith congregations, and all other groupings an opportunity to self-initiate an activation against corruption. Your activation can form part of a national diary of events for Anti-Corruption Week. Think about the following when planning your activation:



LEARN about how corruption affects citizens directly and **teach** others about it. Most people are aware that corruption is a problem in South Africa. But do you know how corruption affects you directly? Learn about how particular services in your municipality or province may never have been delivered due to corruption; or how state institutions providing health services, public transportation or energy may have been impacted by corruption. There are numerous books, films, articles and academic papers on corruption and capture that can be used as resource material. Visit www.defendourdemocracy.co.za for a list of resources.



REPORT corruption. Call the Special Investigating Unit's (SIU) toll free number, 0800 037 774, to report corruption in municipalities, government departments and State Owned Entities. Reports can also be emailed to siu@thehotline.co.za. You could furthermore log a report on the Corruption Watch website: <https://www.corruptionwatch.org.za/report-corruption/>



ACT against corruption. There must be visible public action against corruption. To show outrage against corruption, 'go orange', symbolising the orange overalls that the corrupt must wear in jail. In various sectors, you could consider doing the following:

- Host a lunchtime picket: Health workers and employees in all other sectors, public and private, could consider staging a lunchtime picket outside hospitals, factories and workplaces against corruption and capture.
- Businesses can sign an integrity pledge and ensure that all staff, including top management and owners, undergo integrity training courses. Consider orange banners against corruption outside your work premises that makes it clear that your company will not tolerate corruption.
- Public servants must report corruption when they come across it in their workplaces. The SIU anti-corruption hotline is 0800 037 774. Also consider setting up internal networks of honest public servants as a support mechanism to avoid being isolated for whistleblowing.
- Faith institutions can host 'sermons against corruption' or special congregational gatherings to learn about corruption and capture and its impact.
- Before the December holidays, schools can consider 'assemblies against corruption' in a lead up to Anti-Corruption Week.
- Universities and academics can host webinar/ seminar sessions to develop new thinking about how to tackle corruption and capture.
- Communities can host pickets against corruption, and can 'go orange' by tying orange ribbons on streetpoles, flying orange banners from homes, put up placards at local shopping centres/ house shops/ institutions, hosting community workshops on probing municipal budgets, holding anti-corruption book reading/ information sessions or inviting councillors to community meetings to account on a regular basis.

→ Organisations can host movie screenings focussed on issues of corruption, webinar/ seminar sessions, develop information material on corruption or host a picket outside your local municipality.

→ The cultural and sports sector can consider 'art against corruption', anti-corruption song/ poetry/ cartoon contests, or sports matches against corruption.

→ Members of the media can use the week to focus public attention on issues of corruption and highlight how it is a driver of socio-economic injustice. Media houses can also consider webinars/ public debates against corruption and anchors and reporters can don orange ribbons or consider some other symbolic action against corruption.

→ Go orange on social media. Change your profile picture to show you are against corruption. Use the hashtag **#UniteAgainstCorruption** when sharing information about corruption and capture.

→ Take the online pledge against corruption. Visit www.defendourdemocracy.co.za.



Make sure to keep an eye out for activations taking place in your community that you can support. Follow [@ForDemocracySa](https://twitter.com/ForDemocracySa) for updates on a civil society lecture being planned in Johannesburg, kicking off Anti-Corruption Week, and a public march against corruption taking place in Tshwane.

The www.defendourdemocracy.co.za website will also contain an updated diary of events taking place in other parts of the country closer to Anti-Corruption Week.

To register your Anti-Corruption Week activation; find online posters and other material that you can use for the week, and to make your pledge against corruption, visit www.defendourdemocracy.co.za

#UniteAgainstCorruption