



Commonwealth Africa Anti-Corruption Centre (CAACC): Anti-Corruption Symposium

“Play your part! Let’s rid Africa of Corruption”

25th – 26th April 2023

The Commonwealth Africa Anti-Corruption Centre (CAACC) on 25th and 26th April 2023 hosted an Anti-Corruption Symposium under the theme “Play your part! Let’s rid Africa of Corruption.”

In his welcoming remarks, The Centre Manager, Mr Mogolodi Rantsetse said that, ‘corruption in the African Continent is rampant and this dampens direct foreign investment, which if not addressed would lead to pitiable education system, poor health care, infrastructure’. He said that anti-corruption agencies alone cannot fight the scourge of corruption and that all should participate. He said Article 13 in the UNCAC states that “state parties should promote active participation of individuals and groups outside the public sector, such as civil society, non-governmental organisations and community based organisations, in the prevention of and the fight against corruption”. He further said that this was an opportune time for the those with an interest in fighting corruption to deliberate on the matter and noted that he was pleased to be hosting the symposium. He encouraged the delegates to unflinchingly dialogue about issues of corruption because “silence lead to acceptance.”

The Symposium was designed to promote collaboration between anti-corruption agencies, anti-corruption experts, civil society organisations, the business sector and other stakeholders. An array of topics were discussed and included the State of Corruption in Commonwealth Africa, Citizen Engagement in Fighting Corruption, Role of Civil Society in Fighting Corruption and Corruption prevention strategies for all.

Professor John-Mary Kauzya, Extraordinary Professor at School of Public Leadership - Stellenbosch University shared about corruption in the African context and the individual responsibility on the fight against corruption. He spoke about the importance of instilling values including professionalism, accountability, integrity and ethical conduct. He further said that there is a need to focus on individual leaders and public servants in the process ensuring strong, effective and accountable institutions.

Partnership for Transparency Fund also participated and highlighted the importance of civil society engagement in the fight against corruption. Richard Holloway said that CSOs get concerned by corruption especially when it affects the poor and marginalised as a result of poor service delivery. They become involved in governance and accountability, particularly on preventing and exposing corruption. PTF also shared a video on perspectives of CSO engagement for Ghana, Uganda and Zambia.

United Nations Development Programme, Stellenbosch University, Botswana Centre for Public Integrity (BCPI), Commonwealth Secretariat and Partnership for Transparency Fund have collaborated in organizing this event hosted virtually by the Commonwealth Anti-Corruption Centre in Botswana.

Adviser and Head, Public Sector Governance Dr. Roger Koranteng closed the two-day symposium by emphasising that the vision of the Centre, Commonwealth Africa Anti-Corruption Centre has been fulfilled by partnering with different stakeholders and that public support is a strong counterpart in fighting corruption. He further communicated to the participants that whatever answers they are looking for they should look for solutions at their home countries not in the training platform.