



Regional peer exchange

Advancing anti-corruption in Africa through beneficial ownership transparency

15–18 April, Pretoria, Republic of South Africa



Commonwealth Africa Regional Training: Advancing Anti-Corruption in Africa Through Beneficial Ownership Transparency

15th April 2024 marked the commencement of the training programme on Advancing Anti-Corruption in Africa through Beneficial Ownership Transparency. This 4-days regional training is organised by Commonwealth Africa Anti-Corruption Centre (CAACC) in partnership with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and Open Ownership in Pretoria, South Africa.

The training pulled together representatives from Financial Intelligence Centres (FICs), Anti-Corruption Agencies, and Company Registrars from selected member countries of the Commonwealth Africa Anti-Corruption Centre (CAACC), particularly those in the earlier stages of beneficial ownership implementation. The representatives hailed from Botswana, Eswatini, Gabon, Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia, Sierra Leone, South Africa and Togo.

The opening session included welcoming remarks delivered by the organizers of the training. Mr. Mogolodi Rantsetse, Centre Manager from the Commonwealth Africa Anti-Corruption Centre, who expressed gratitude to the participants and emphasised the importance of partnerships. Ms. Karabo Rajiuli also delivered welcoming remarks on behalf of Open Ownership, underscoring the significance

of collaboration among implementing agencies and data users. Mr. Itumeleng Mongale from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime welcomed the participants to the four-days training, highlighting its primary objective of addressing the phenomenon of corruption that continues to affect the continent of Africa.

In his keynote address, Mr. Leonard Lekgetho, Chief Operations Officer at the Special Investigating Unit (SIU), emphasised the critical role of beneficial ownership investigations in combating corruption. He reiterated the importance of uncovering the true owners of assets to prosecute corrupt practices, trace illicit financial flows, combat tax abuse, money laundering, and terrorism financing.

Following the introductions, participants engaged in comprehensive discussions and group activities aimed at demystifying the concept of beneficial ownership. Topics included understanding the distinction between legal ownership and beneficial ownership, sharing implementation experiences from various countries, and a practical session on the challenges and realities of implementing beneficial ownership transparency. The beginning of this training promises a very fruitful journey for participants in acquiring knowledge on advancing anti-corruption in Africa through beneficial ownership transparency.