



Spear of Integrity

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Aaron Ringera:

A Legacy of Courage, Integrity, and Reform

An exclusive interview with the jurist behind Kenya's modern anti-corruption architecture

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A close-up photograph of a person's hands mending a blue fishing net. The person is wearing a dark brown t-shirt with a yellow logo that says 'WARRIOR'. They are also wearing two silver rings on their fingers. The net is being held over a large yellow bag, which has a blue Adidas logo on it. The background is a bright, sandy beach with waves in the distance.

*A strand is
weak; together
they become a
net...*



A call for courageous reform in the National Police Service

By Stephen Karuga

The National Police Service (NPS) stands at a critical crossroads. On November 13, 2025, the Chairperson of the EACC, Dr. David Oginde, presented the Commission's examination review to Inspector General of Police, Mr. David Kanja, a moment that underscored both the depth of the Service's challenges and the urgency of reform.

The findings revealed deep-rooted corruption, operational inefficiencies, and systemic failures that have long plagued the Service. From extortion on the roads to mismanagement in specialized units, the findings paint a stark picture of an institution struggling to uphold the very laws it is tasked with enforcing.

Yet, amidst these challenges lies a rare opportunity: the NPS leadership itself has invited this scrutiny, signalling a willingness to confront its shortcomings and chart a path toward meaningful reform.

Conducted under the Commission's corruption prevention mandate, the review aimed to identify corruption-prone gaps, assess compliance with laws and policies, and recommend measures to strengthen service delivery. Its findings fall into three broad categories: legal and regulatory gaps, systemic administrative failures, and entrenched enforcement malpractices that have persisted despite repeated reform efforts.

Administrative failures affect every unit within the NPS and significantly impact service delivery. The Quick Response Unit, designed for rapid deployment to high-risk incidents, faces operational challenges including the absence of its own command structure, inconsistent recognition of achievements, and the discontinuation of field allowances since June 2023. Its fragmented logistics system causes delays and shortages of essential supplies. These gaps severely undermine the Unit's operational effectiveness.

The Traffic Unit, tasked with road safety, is crippled by systemic weaknesses. Recruitment is non-competitive and prone to corruption, with officers overstaying in stations to build networks for bribery. General-duty officers sometimes pose as traffic officers to solicit payments, and many serve without mandatory traffic training, resulting in inconsistent enforcement and

abuse of power. Corruption-implicated traffic bases are often disbanded without disciplinary action, and officers are merely transferred, perpetuating impunity.

Enforcement malpractices remain the most visible and damaging problem. Traffic police routinely extort payments from PSV operators, sometimes through SACCOs, with non-compliance resulting in arbitrary arrests or fabricated charges. Collusion with towing operators, manipulation of accident scenes, falsification of records, and extortion during police abstract processing are widespread. Impounded vehicles are reportedly vandalized, stripped, or stolen, further eroding public trust. Beyond traffic enforcement, police patrols routinely harass businesses, collecting weekly 'protection fees'. Operators who resist face harassment including false charges. Officers are often given unofficial collection targets by commanders, with proceeds funneled up the chain of command, creating a culture of systemic corruption.

While these enforcement lapses are alarming, the NPS now has a clear roadmap for reform. The EACC report offers actionable measures to address the legal, administrative, and operational weaknesses identified. At the report's presentation, IG Kanja reaffirmed the NPS's commitment to strengthening oversight mechanisms, expanding automation, and leveraging technology to combat corruption. He also pointed to upcoming initiatives, such as the introduction of body cameras and key policy reviews, as essential steps toward restoring transparency and public trust. Present at the ceremony were DIG-Kenya Police Service, Mr. Eliud Lagat; DIG-Administration Police Service, Mr. Gilbert Masengeli; Director of Criminal Investigations, Mr. Mohamed I. Amin; and NPS Secretary Administration Officer, Ms. Bernice Lemedeket.

Stakeholders, including the EACC and development partners, must provide support to ensure meaningful change. Kenya's citizens deserve a National Police Service that is professional, accountable, and capable of delivering justice. The time for bold and sustained action is now, and the NPS must rise to the challenge without fear or favour.

Disclaimer

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EACC recovers grabbed Karura Forest land valued at Kes2.8 Billion

The Environment and Land Court in Nairobi on October 23rd, 2025, delivered a landmark judgment cancelling the title to land known as Nairobi Block 91/386, valued at Kes2.8 billion, in the name of Gigiri Court Limited.

The suit was filed in 2007 by the Kenya Anti-Corruption Commission (KACC), the predecessor to the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC). Gigiri Court Limited had acquired the property from the late Hon. John Joseph Kamotho, a former powerful Cabinet Minister in the government of the late President Moi.

The property, measuring approximately 17.56 acres, is prime public land in Gigiri, forming part of Karura Forest. The land was initially reserved for the Kenya Forest Service (KFS) and Kenya Technical Teachers College (KTTC).

In determining the 18-year-old case, Justice David Mwangi declared that the Certificate of Lease issued to Gigiri Court

Limited was null and void and could not confer a valid title to private persons.

The Court held that the land was alienated Government Land, and its allocation to Hon. Kamotho was contrary to the Forest Act and the Government Lands Act. It further affirmed that the land was reserved for KTTC and Karura Forest.

Importantly, the Court reaffirmed that the principle of first registration does not protect unlawfully acquired property, as provided under Article 40(6) of the Constitution.

The Court also found Mr. Wilson Gacanja and Mr. James Raymond Njenga, both former Commissioners of Lands, personally liable for their illegal actions.

This judgment marks a major victory for the protection of public land. The recovered parcel, reserved partly as forest land and partly as institutional land, now reverts to the public and remains public property.



EACC CEO Mr. Abdi Mohamud leads KFS and EACC officials, flanked by Deputy Conservator of Forests Ms. Beatrice Mbula, during a media-accompanied visit to recovered Kenya Forest land.



EACC CEO Mr. Abdi Mohamud and KFS Deputy Conservator of Forests Ms. Beatrice Mbula during a landmark visit to the recovered Kenya Forest land.



Crackdown against fake academic certificates paying off

The Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC) campaign against falsification of academic credentials by individuals seeking election and appointment to public office has received a major boost following recent court successes.

While the Commission has consistently secured convictions for forgery, uttering false documents, and related offences, it has also intensified efforts to recover earnings obtained by individuals who used fake documents to fraudulently acquire public property or employment.

In a recent judgment, Hon. C. N. Ondieki of the Nairobi Anti-Corruption Court found the former Nairobi senatorial aspirant Gabriel Chapia guilty and sentenced him to two and a half years in prison or a fine of Kes150,000 for forgery of academic certificates and fraudulent acquisition of public property.

The Court further ordered Chapia to refund Kes182,751 earned while employed at the Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital and Kes3,314,662 received from the Kenya Investment Authority, together with 12% interest, bringing the total refund to Kes3,917,102.56. Failure to make the refund will attract an additional one-year jail term.

In a separate case, Eldoret Anti-Corruption Magistrate Hon. Mikoyan found former Kisii County MCA, Mr. Kepha Sagini Nyakundi, guilty of multiple charges, including personation, providing false information, and uttering false documents. Mr. Nyakundi was convicted and sentenced for impersonating another individual in order to fraudulently benefit from academic or professional credentials contained in official documents.

In addition, 297 cases of falsification of academic and professional documents in recruitment in 33 counties are under various stages of investigations.



📷 NCAJ members pose for a group photo



📷 EACC CEO Mr. Abdi A. Mohamud, (Right) Attorney General Hon. Dorcas Oduor (Centre) and Lady Justice Lucy Njuguna, Presiding Judge of the of the Anti-Corruption and Economic Crimes Division (Left).



📷 EACC CEO Mr. Abdi Mohamud addressing participants during the launch of the AntiCorruption Guidelines by NCAJ at a meeting held at Safari Park Hotel, Nairobi.

NCAJ launches anti-corruption guidelines to expedite trial of corruption cases

The National Council on the Administration of Justice (NCAJ) launched Guidelines for the Expedited Trial of Corruption and Economic Crime Cases in Special Magistrates' Courts during a high-profile ceremony held at a Nairobi hotel in October this year.

The Guidelines, a product of inter-agency collaboration led by NCAJ and its Anti-Corruption Committee, chaired by EACC CEO Mr. Abdi Mohamud, aim to fast-track the adjudication of corruption and economic crime cases while improving coordination among key justice sector institutions.

The Guidelines are intended to enhance seamless service delivery and coordination of criminal justice sector agencies with a role in the corruption and economic crimes cases brought before the Special Magistrates' Courts.

The move marks a significant step in Kenya's ongoing anti-corruption reforms, with the Guidelines designed to streamline processes, promote consistency in legal proceedings, and boost public confidence in the justice system.

Speaking at the launch, Mr. Mohamud emphasized the importance of harmonized procedures in the fight against corruption.

"By consolidating and standardizing practices and procedures among the diverse actors involved in the process, the Guidelines will foster greater consistency, predictability, and accountability in handling corruption and economic crimes," he said.

The event was presided over by Attorney General Hon. Dorcas Oduor, who commended the Guidelines as a critical tool for judicial efficiency and systemic reform.

"The justice sector must, therefore, actively promote the rule of law and uphold integrity. To achieve this, collaboration among government agencies will amplify our efforts and provide hope for a brighter future for all Kenyans," she emphasized.

The launch signaled a renewed commitment from Kenya's justice and anti-corruption institutions to deliver fast, fair, and effective justice in economic crime cases. These Guidelines shall come into effect upon approval and publication by the NCAJ.

EACC, World Bank discuss joint action against money laundering

The Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC) hosted a high-level delegation from the World Bank for strategic discussions aimed at strengthening collaboration in the fight against corruption and economic crimes.

The September 11th, 2025, meeting, held at EACC headquarters, focused on enhancing inter-agency cooperation, particularly in addressing illicit financial flows, money laundering, and the recovery of stolen assets.

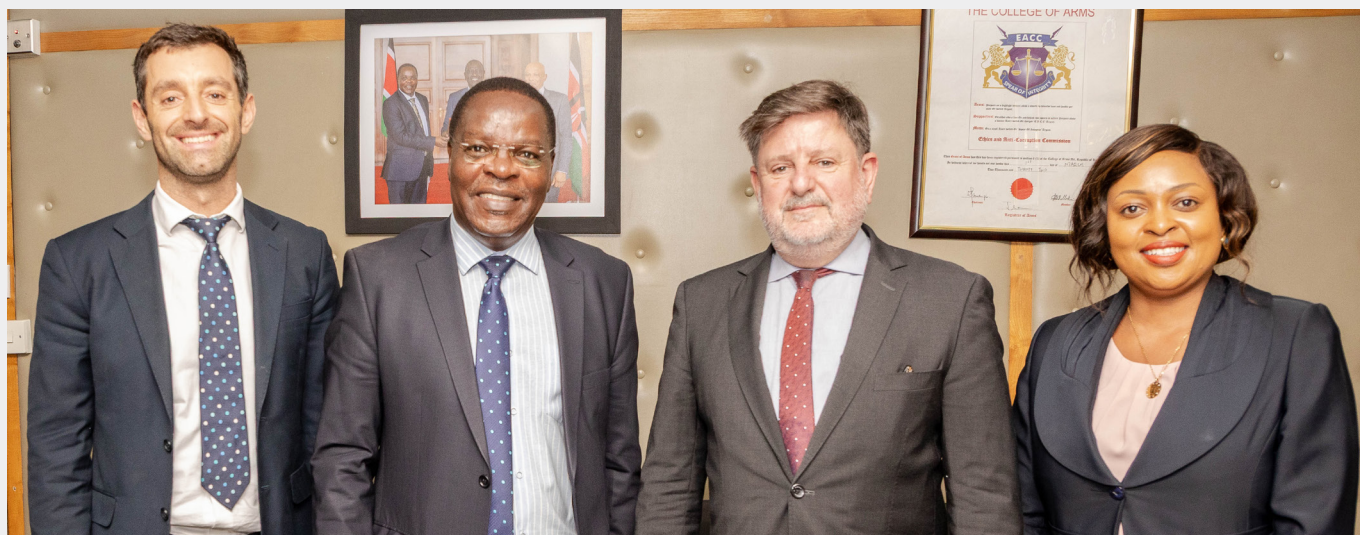
Speaking during the engagement, EACC's Director of Field Services, Mr. Jackson Mue, emphasized the importance of joint efforts in tackling complex financial crimes.

"This engagement offers a critical platform for reinforcing inter-agency collaboration in combating illicit financial flows and ensuring accountability in the management of public resources," said Mr. Mue.

The World Bank delegation was led by Ms. Yara Esquivel Soto, Senior Financial Sector Specialist, who reaffirmed the Bank's commitment to supporting institutional capacity building.

Ms. Soto commended EACC's ongoing efforts in investigating and monitoring capital-intensive projects and extended an invitation for the Commission to join the Global Forum for Asset Recovery (GFAR) under the World Bank's Stolen Asset Recovery (StAR) initiative.

The StAR program supports countries in identifying and recovering stolen assets held in foreign jurisdictions, a key priority in global anti-corruption efforts.



From left: an OECD representative, EACC Chairperson Dr. David Oginde, Mr. Carlos Conde, OECD Head of the Middle East and Africa Division, and Ms. Joyce Munene, Head of KLIF, following productive talks at the Integrity Centre

Kenya deepens anti-corruption ties with OECD

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) delegation, led by Mr. Carlos Conde, Head of the Middle East and Africa Division, paid a courtesy visit to the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC) on September 9th, 2025.

The high-level team was received at the Integrity Centre in Nairobi by EACC Chairperson Dr. David Oginde and Ms. Joyce Munene, Head of the Kenya Leadership Integrity Forum (KLIF) Secretariat.

Discussions during the meeting focused on strengthening cooperation between the OECD and EACC in combating bribery and corruption, with a particular focus on advancing the implementation of the OECD Anti-Bribery Convention.

The Convention remains a cornerstone in global efforts to curb the supply side of corruption in international business transactions, promoting fair competition and integrity in cross-border trade.

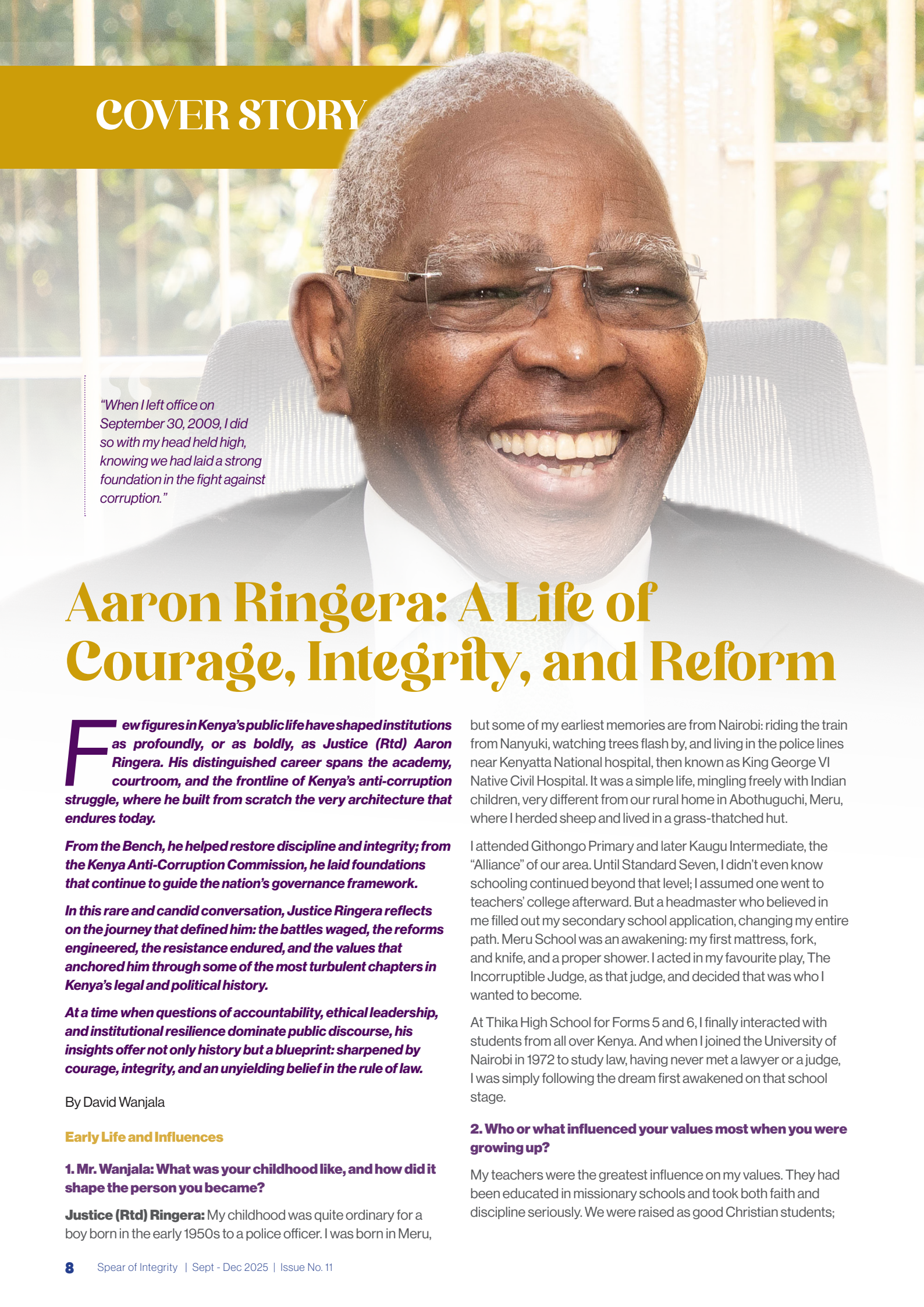
Dr. Oginde reaffirmed Kenya's commitment to global anti-corruption efforts, stating that the Commission is actively supporting institutions in developing policies that align with the Anti-Bribery Act.

"The Act prohibits the offering, giving, or accepting of bribes. Companies, whether local or foreign, that are convicted of bribery offenses face the risk of blacklisting and being barred from engaging in government contracts," he said.

In his remarks, Mr. Conde highlighted the crucial role of good governance in fostering dignity, economic growth, and sustainable development. He noted that Kenya has expressed a strong interest in joining the OECD framework, with advanced discussions currently ongoing between the OECD and the National Treasury.

"The OECD serves as a global forum and knowledge hub, helping countries shape better policies through internationally recognized standards, peer learning, and evidence-based analysis," Mr. Conde said.

COVER STORY

A close-up portrait of Justice (Rtd) Aaron Ringera, an elderly man with grey hair and glasses, smiling warmly. He is wearing a dark suit jacket over a white shirt. The background is a bright window with a view of green foliage.

"When I left office on September 30, 2009, I did so with my head held high, knowing we had laid a strong foundation in the fight against corruption."

Aaron Ringera: A Life of Courage, Integrity, and Reform

Few figures in Kenya's public life have shaped institutions as profoundly, or as boldly, as Justice (Rtd) Aaron Ringera. His distinguished career spans the academy, courtroom, and the frontline of Kenya's anti-corruption struggle, where he built from scratch the very architecture that endures today.

From the Bench, he helped restore discipline and integrity; from the Kenya Anti-Corruption Commission, he laid foundations that continue to guide the nation's governance framework.

In this rare and candid conversation, Justice Ringera reflects on the journey that defined him: the battles waged, the reforms engineered, the resistance endured, and the values that anchored him through some of the most turbulent chapters in Kenya's legal and political history.

At a time when questions of accountability, ethical leadership, and institutional resilience dominate public discourse, his insights offer not only history but a blueprint: sharpened by courage, integrity, and an unyielding belief in the rule of law.

By David Wanjala

Early Life and Influences

1. Mr. Wanjala: What was your childhood like, and how did it shape the person you became?

Justice (Rtd) Ringera: My childhood was quite ordinary for a boy born in the early 1950s to a police officer. I was born in Meru,

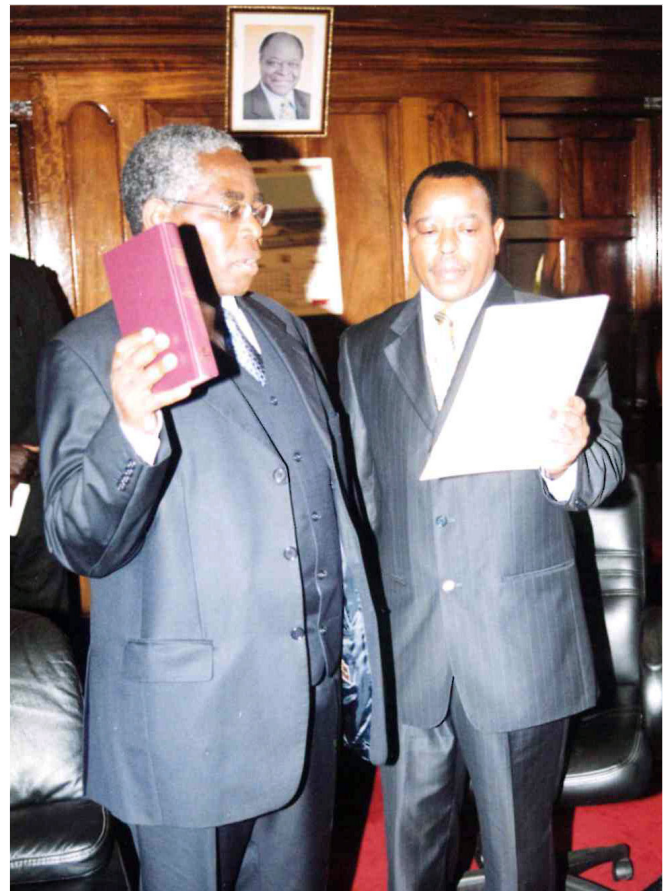
but some of my earliest memories are from Nairobi: riding the train from Nanyuki, watching trees flash by, and living in the police lines near Kenyatta National hospital, then known as King George VI Native Civil Hospital. It was a simple life, mingling freely with Indian children, very different from our rural home in Abothuguchi, Meru, where I herded sheep and lived in a grass-thatched hut.

I attended Githongo Primary and later Kaugu Intermediate, the "Alliance" of our area. Until Standard Seven, I didn't even know schooling continued beyond that level; I assumed one went to teachers' college afterward. But a headmaster who believed in me filled out my secondary school application, changing my entire path. Meru School was an awakening: my first mattress, fork, and knife, and a proper shower. I acted in my favourite play, The Incorruptible Judge, as that judge, and decided that was who I wanted to become.

At Thika High School for Forms 5 and 6, I finally interacted with students from all over Kenya. And when I joined the University of Nairobi in 1972 to study law, having never met a lawyer or a judge, I was simply following the dream first awakened on that school stage.

2. Who or what influenced your values most when you were growing up?

My teachers were the greatest influence on my values. They had been educated in missionary schools and took both faith and discipline seriously. We were raised as good Christian students;



📷 Justice (Rtd) Aaron Ringera was sworn into office as Director of KACC on September 10, 2004 at the High Court in Nairobi,



📷 He confers with Ms Fatuma Sichale at the swearing in ceremony, who became his Deputy at KACC



📷 He poses at his swearing in with Mr. Kiraitu Murungi, the then Cabinet Minister for Justice and Constitutional Affairs

I still remember being told in Standard Two that the best book to read was the Bible. Our teachers were strict but admirable: smart, upright people whose behaviour we tried to emulate.

Boarding school from Standard 5 taught me independence and responsibility, shaping my character early. In Form 2, a teacher, Shem Kehodo, told us there were only two real careers: medicine for those strong in the sciences and law for those strong in the humanities. I excelled in the latter, which made my path toward law clear.

LEADERSHIP: Judiciary and Anti-Corruption

3. Can you take us through your professional journey?

I graduated top of my law class in 1975 and received a university scholarship for a Master's in International Law. My research took me to Tanzania, where I interviewed Zimbabwean and South African freedom fighters on the use of force in national liberation. After completing my postgraduate degree, I joined the Kenya School of Law for my Diploma, becoming the first student with a postgraduate qualification to do so.

Before completing the Diploma, I was offered a lecturing position at the University of Nairobi, where I taught for 12 years, rising to the rank of Senior Lecturer and Head of Public Law Department. Teaching gave me immense satisfaction; anyone who passed through the Law of Evidence course between 1978 and 1990 had the opportunity to encounter me. Alongside teaching, I practiced law, first with Kiraitu Murungi and Kamau Kuria, then with Oraro & Rachier, handling a wide range of litigation.

In July 1994, I was appointed judge by President Moi on the advice of the Judicial Service Commission chaired by Chief Justice Fred Apaloo. I worked to improve courtroom culture, demanding cleanliness, punctuality, and integrity. I once publicly disqualified myself after a litigant attempted to bribe me, a moment that shocked many but affirmed my principles. Throughout my years on the Bench, only one of my decisions was ever overturned by a higher court. If that is any indication of the standard of my work, then I believe the quality spoke for itself.

I was later appointed Solicitor General. While serving as the Solicitor General, the government came under pressure from the World Bank and IMF to create an independent anti-corruption authority. After the first director of the Kenya Anti-Corruption Authority (KACA) was removed, the advisory board sought someone with judicial integrity and administrative experience and approached me. I initially declined, but after President Moi personally appealed to me in early 1999, I agreed on the terms that it would be a secondment from the Judiciary. I was gazetted on February 23, 1999.

KACA existed only on paper, no staff, no offices, just a small room at NSSF. My first task was acquiring premises; I secured the collapsed Trade Bank building and named it the Integrity Centre. We recruited senior staff and built the institution from scratch.

Political pressure soon followed. When we investigated a powerful Cabinet Minister, President Moi called to question my intentions. I told him, "You promised support; I will enforce the law, you handle politics." The matter triggered legal challenges, and in an unrelated case involving an accused civil servant, the High Court declared KACA's powers unconstitutional in December 2000. The Authority was abolished, and I returned to the Judiciary.

After the 2002 elections, the new NARC government sought to build a new agency, the Kenya Anti-Corruption Commission (KACC). Once again, the advisory board headhunted me. I retired

from the Court of Appeal and took up the role in 2004, rebuilding the institution from scratch with staff recruited purely on merit.

I remain proud of laying KACC's foundation. It proved that Kenya could build a credible institution based on competence and integrity, not patronage. Watching KACC, now EACC, grow from that foundation remains one of the highlights of my career.

Judicial Reform

4. Tell us about the radical surgery at the Judiciary. Did it achieve the intended purpose?

It was the most demanding assignment ever placed on my shoulders. When the NARC government came to power in 2002 on an anti-corruption platform, the Judiciary was widely viewed as one of the weakest links. Chief Justice Johnson Evan Gicheru, who had just succeeded Bernard Chunga, set up a Development Committee to address this, and because of my firm anti-corruption stance on the Bench, he entrusted me with the task, together with Justice Onyango Otieno and Chief Magistrate Wanjiru Karanja.

At our first meeting, the Minister for Justice, Kiraitu Murungi, and Presidential Advisor John Githongo brought an intelligence dossier and suggested we use it. I insisted we conduct our own independent investigations. They stepped back, and we set to work. For six months, we visited every court station in Kenya, inviting the public, civil society, and justice-sector stakeholders to give evidence. On September 30, 2003, we submitted our report, triggering what came to be known as the Judiciary's "radical surgery." Nearly half the Bench, from magistrates to Court of Appeal judges, was affected. Most resigned.

The impact was immense. No Commonwealth country had ever attempted such a purge. It drew global attention and earned President Kibaki widespread praise. For a while, discipline and integrity visibly improved within the Judiciary. Unfortunately, over time, the gains slipped. Anecdotal evidence and public perception suggest corruption remains a challenge, meaning the surgery, though necessary and ground-breaking, did not achieve the lasting effect we had hoped for.

5. Is judiciary radical surgery something you could recommend today?

It is no longer possible under the current Constitution, and that makes all the difference. At present, all complaints must go through the Judicial Service Commission and its respective committees. The legal framework has changed.

6. Having steered such a significant transformation in the Judiciary, your leadership and integrity were widely recognized. Yet, in 2016, you unsuccessfully offered yourself for consideration as Chief Justice. In your view, do you feel the selection process treated you fairly?

When I applied to be Chief Justice, I naively believed that my credentials as a former academic, high-level public-sector administrator, and distinguished judicial service made me a worthy candidate for the office. In the event, I was not even shortlisted and when a court order made it possible for me to appear at the interview, I found that a majority in the interview panel were wholly hostile to the prospect of my becoming the Chief Justice. It turned out that what I thought was my best recommendation, namely, courage and integrity, were disconcerting values. No, I was not treated fairly.



Justice Aaron Ringera (centre) shares a light moment with David Wanjala (left) and Antony Kahiga (right) during the interview at his private office in Nairobi.

Leadership: Anti-Corruption

7. What are your thoughts on your five-year tenure at the helm of KACC?

In my view, KACC was a great success. We had four clear mandates: investigations, asset recovery, public education, and prevention, and made measurable progress in each. Our preventive reviews led to real improvements in institutions like Pensions, KEMSA, and Immigration. By the time I left in 2009, we had investigated and recommended nearly 500 cases for prosecution, including those involving Cabinet Ministers and Permanent Secretaries.

Our greatest limitation was the lack of prosecutorial powers. Despite earlier assurances, the political class, across the board, refused to grant the anti-corruption agency authority to prosecute, fearing it would create a “monster.” This weakened our efforts significantly. Another challenge was overseas investigations, especially in Anglo Leasing matters, where we were trapped between courts that barred us from investigating abroad and prosecutors who insisted we must. These gaps were resolved only after my tenure through new legislation and successful appeals.

I am particularly proud of establishing a solid asset recovery regime; many of the recoveries celebrated today began under KACC. The wheels of justice grind slowly, but they grind. When I left office on September 30, 2009, I did so with my head held high, knowing we had laid a strong foundation in the fight against corruption.

8. Do you think EACC needs the power to prosecute?

For the anti-corruption body to be truly effective, it must have prosecutorial powers. Investigations alone are insufficient; cases forwarded to the DPP are often returned or dropped despite meeting evidentiary and public-interest thresholds. Granting the agency authority to prosecute ensures that corruption is not only exposed but also effectively punished, and stolen resources are recovered.

Legacy and Reflections:

Reflections on Kenya's Anti-Corruption Efforts

9. Is Kenya on the right track to slaying the dragon of corruption?

Fighting corruption is always a journey; no civilization has ever been completely free of it. The goal is to reduce it so it becomes the exception, not the norm. Countries like Sweden, Denmark, Norway, and even Botswana have achieved this through committed leadership and a public that values integrity. With similar commitment and societal embrace of honesty, Kenya could reach levels seen in Hong Kong or Singapore. However, based on current evidence, we are not there yet; corruption has not decreased, it has increased.

10. What, in your opinion, is the place of ADR and Plea Bargain in the anti-corruption fight?

I believe ADR is a very useful strategy. In corruption cases, the goal is meaningful outcomes, and prosecution has not always delivered because of many challenges. ADR is faster and ensures offenders disgorge what they took, often the most effective punishment, since jail alone does not recover stolen assets. Plea bargaining, when focused on results, is equally effective. Even the courts are increasingly embracing ADR because it restores resources and delivers tangible outcomes more efficiently.

Leadership Philosophy and Personal Values

11. What personal attributes shaped your leadership?

My father often told me that my integrity came from my mother. As a young police officer, he once engaged in petty corruption, extorting meat from butchers. My mother confronted him, refused to let us eat anything acquired unlawfully, and insisted he eat it alone. Her uncompromising stand not only shaped my values but, my father said, saved his life. Many officers who continued such practices later faced deadly consequences.

Two values have guided me throughout my life: integrity and courage. I led by example, reminding my officers that they embodied the Anti-Corruption Commission in everything they did. I practised consultative leadership; early strategy meetings every Monday with my assistant directors, an open-door policy for junior officers, and full confidence in my team.

Above all, I believe in the force of example. Anyone in Kenya will tell you that Judge Ringera, whether at KACC or in the Judiciary, was never associated with corruption. That personal standard, even as a lecturer, speaks louder than any speech or directive.

12. How did you maintain independence and moral courage in a politically charged environment?

Maintaining independence and moral courage comes down to personality. I have always been absolutely faithful to the law: if the law says something is wrong, it is wrong; if it says I must act, I act. At KACC, this meant pursuing investigations and making recommendations even when they involved powerful politicians or high-ranking officials. It was not always easy, and at times the environment was politically charged, but true courage comes from knowing that what you are doing is right. Standing by the law, rather than yielding to pressure, was the foundation of my integrity and leadership.

Kenya's Future

13. What is your outlook for the future? Do you think the younger generation has the potential to lead a more honest and transparent Kenya?

There is hope. Much of today's corruption is driven by parochial attitudes; people acting for tribe, village, or personal gain. The younger generation, however, has shown they are above such narrow interests; they are guided by values. I believe Gen Z, and those after them, have the potential to bring real change. If they led today, I am convinced they would do better than my generation.

But we must also confront a deeper problem: Kenya lacks a genuine anti-corruption culture. Many citizens are comfortable benefiting from corruption as long as it doesn't harm them; some even defend "their own thieves." This mindset makes the fight harder, because laws alone cannot end corruption, our attitudes and values must change as well.

14. During your tenure at KACC, you cultivated a culture of excellence, discipline, and integrity so much so that older staff now call it the 'Ringera culture.' How did you build and nurture it?

I built the "Ringera culture" by the force of example. I was always in my office early, never late for functions, and upheld high standards of timeliness, cleanliness, and integrity: lessons I learned from Meru School. When officers saw that their boss was disciplined and clean, they followed suit. Integrity is best taught not by words, but by showing it and making it part of the culture.

15. How do you reconcile the idea that leaders under suspicion should step aside in view of the citizens' right to elect their leaders?

The principle of "innocent until proven guilty" applies in criminal law, not in leadership. If someone is deemed unsuitable to lead, they should step aside. Even those convicted yet appealing the decision should not run for office, as the presumption after conviction is that you are guilty unless acquitted. Leadership demands a higher standard of integrity than mere legal technicalities.

16. What innovative measures would you suggest to reduce corruption in Kenya?

Strong political will, aggressive asset recovery to ensure the corrupt cannot benefit from their crimes, and continuous public education are key. The leverage of technology in Government operations is also a must do to reduce public sector corruption.

Personal Reflections: Life, Family, and Success

17. How did you maintain a work-life balance?

I must admit I failed at work-life balance. Whether in academia, private practice, the Judiciary, or leading anti-corruption bodies, work took the best of my time. As a result, I wasn't the father or husband I should have been; I simply didn't balance.

I regret that deeply. Jobs eventually end, but your family remains. If you give everything to work, you risk becoming a stranger to your own children and spouse. Achieving balance is essential, and my experience is a reminder of that.

18. How do you define success beyond career achievements?

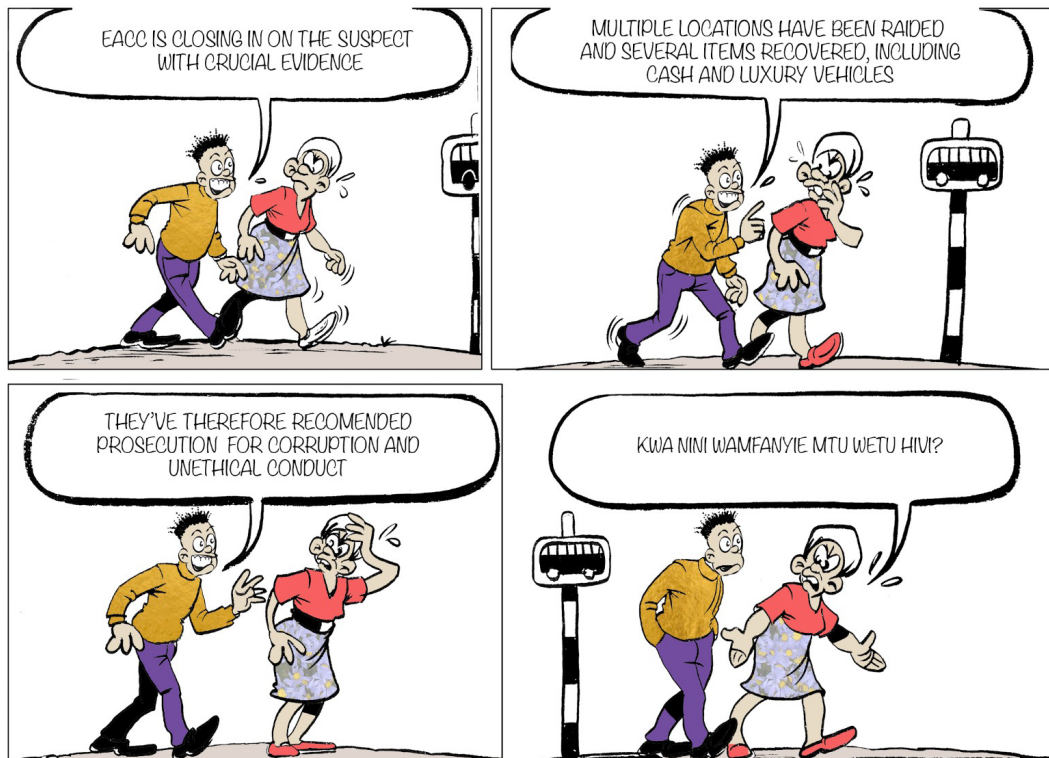
I have learnt that beyond career achievements and the prospect of being welcomed yonder by your maker with the words 'well done you good and faithful servant', having a good family is the most important measure of success. If your children grow up well, live ethically, avoid drugs, handle alcohol responsibly, and pursue their careers or businesses with integrity, that is success. Likewise, having a spouse who stands by you and with whom you care for each other defines true success, far beyond any career achievements.

Parting Shot

19. What message do you have for the next generation of leaders and reformers?

The difference between successful and unsuccessful countries boils down to three things: leadership, adherence to the rule of law, and good governance, including strong anti-corruption measures. In developed countries, even if governments change frequently, like in Italy or Israel, the systems function efficiently because of strong bureaucracies, respect for the rule of law, and well-educated citizens.

Leadership is key. A committed leader can turn the direction of a nation. Look at John Michuki when he was Minister for Roads; he transformed the transport system. Leadership matters. If young leaders embrace integrity, strong governance, and the rule of law, they can truly reshape the future of Kenya.



By Eunice Minayo

We must embrace collective action in the follow-the-money investigations

This means building strong, collaborative networks that include not only regulatory agencies but also private sector players such as commercial banks and property management firms.

The desire for financial gain fundamentally drives corruption and economic crimes. The perpetrators go to great lengths to conceal the illicit proceeds, disguising the origins, ownership, and movement.

This deliberate obfuscation makes investigations of following the money especially difficult. Tracing these funds requires not only technical expertise but also access to information that is often hidden behind complex financial networks, shell companies, and international transfers.

Despite the formidable challenges, law enforcement agencies and regulatory bodies in Kenya have made significant progress in addressing financial crimes.

The Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC), Kenya's leading anti-corruption body, has been at the forefront of "follow-the-money" investigations. Through

partnerships with both domestic agencies like the Financial Reporting Centre (FRC), which is Kenya's Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU), and international organizations such as the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the EACC has made headway in tracing and recovering assets acquired through corruption.

However, these efforts, while commendable, remain slow and often reactive rather than proactive. For investigations to become faster and more effective, there is a growing recognition of the need for collective action. This means building strong, collaborative networks that include not only public regulatory agencies but also private sector players such as commercial banks and property management firms. The ultimate goal is to ensure that corrupt individuals find it difficult to hide or enjoy the proceeds, thereby making corruption and economic crime less attractive and more punishable.

According to the World Bank, collective action is "a collaborative and sustained process of cooperation between stakeholders." It strengthens the impact and credibility of individual efforts, protects vulnerable actors by aligning them with like-minded institutions, and levels the playing field among competitors. Collective action can also temporarily substitute for or strengthen weak local laws and enforcement mechanisms.

In Kenya's fight against corruption, collective action means building a multi-stakeholder alliance that can dismantle the sophisticated networks enabling illicit financial flows. Financial institutions and property companies are central to this effort. These institutions often hold critical data on suspect transactions, asset ownership, and investment flows that can expedite investigations and asset recovery efforts.

Despite this, many banks and property firms are hesitant to cooperate fully with investigations unless compelled by a court order. While this cautious approach may be rooted in legal obligations, it also poses a significant barrier to effective anti-corruption enforcement. For instance, delays in accessing bank records or property ownership documents often result in missed opportunities to trace or freeze stolen assets before they are moved beyond reach.

Although banks and property developers are profit-oriented entities, they must consider the long-term risks that unchecked illicit financial flows (IFFs) pose to their industries. IFFs distort market pricing, undermine competition, and create economic instability. They also hinder genuine investment, erode public confidence in the financial system, and create volatility not linked to underlying economic fundamentals. According to the Association of Certified Anti-Money Laundering Specialists (ACAMS), this weakens not just the broader economy but also causes severe reputational damage to the institutions that operate within, leading to loss of customers, regulatory penalties, and, in extreme cases, revocation of operating licenses.

For collective action to be effective, clear protocols and frameworks are needed to govern information sharing and inter-agency collaboration. Banks, for instance, should establish compliance departments that can respond to requests from agencies like the EACC promptly, even in the absence of a court order, provided the requests meet specific legal and procedural safeguards. Property companies should maintain transparent records and reporting structures that can be made available to investigative authorities when needed.

Kenya can also look to international models where public-private cooperation has yielded strong results, such as the FBI's Joint Terrorism Task Forces (JTTF) and the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF) in the USA and the United Kingdom's Joint Money Laundering Intelligence Taskforce (JMLIT) led by the UK's National Crime Agency (NCA).

These arrangements bring together law enforcement and regulatory agencies to share information and disrupt criminal networks. A similar framework could be adapted locally, enabling secure, lawful data sharing between key stakeholders in Kenya's anti-corruption ecosystem.

Another important factor in strengthening collective action is capacity building. Financial and property sector personnel must be trained to recognize red flags associated with illicit activity, such as unusual transaction patterns, unexplained wealth, or misuse of legal structures like trusts or offshore entities. Likewise, law enforcement and anti-corruption officers need support in using financial intelligence tools, conducting forensic audits, and navigating legal complexities in asset tracing.

Currently, the FBI maintains a close partnership with EACC through a dedicated task force, providing ongoing mentorship, specialized training, and critical resources to support anti-corruption efforts. In addition, the FBI collaborates extensively with other state agencies, including the Directorate of Criminal Investigations and the Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA), among other agencies. These partnerships focus on addressing criminal and terrorist threats and areas of mutual investigative interest.

Ultimately, collective action offers a powerful way forward in the fight against corruption. Corruption is a collective action problem (tragedy of the commons), and so the solution is collective action. Collective action allows for the pooling of resources, knowledge, and authority across sectors, making it harder for criminals to operate in the shadows. It also reinforces the message that no institution, public or private, can afford to remain neutral in the face of corruption!

The battle against corruption is not one that any single agency can win alone. It demands collaboration, commitment, and the courage to confront powerful interests. Kenya's institutions must continue to build trust, establish information-sharing mechanisms, and create a collective action front against corruption. Only through such sustained and collective effort can we hope to create a transparent, accountable, and prosperous society.





By CPA Ondimu
Stanislas

Preventing bribery: why the private sector must act

Bribery remains a persistent and visible form of corruption in Kenya, undermining trust in institutions and distorting fair service delivery.

To address this challenge, Kenya enacted the Anti-Bribery Act, which came into effect on January 13, 2017. Uniquely, it was the private sector, often seen as the supply side of bribery, that championed the creation of this law.

The Act establishes a comprehensive framework for preventing, investigating, and punishing bribery in both the public and private sectors, while delegating to the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC) the enforcement powers. It also introduces protections for whistle-blowers to encourage the reporting of unethical conduct.

The Act applies to state officers, businesses, NGOs, foreign public officials, partnerships, and individuals. A key provision, Section 9(1), requires every public and private entity to develop and implement procedures to prevent bribery and corruption, appropriate to their size and operations.

To guide compliance, the Attorney General, under Sections 12(1) and 22, published the anti-bribery regulations and corresponding guidelines in 2022, offering clarity on expectations.

Regulation 13(2) outlines the essential principles entities must incorporate in their anti-bribery procedures. These include risk assessment, internal reporting mechanisms, whistleblower protection, training, and monitoring systems. These procedures are not optional; they form part of the legal responsibilities of all covered entities.

For private entities, failure to comply with Section 9(1) is an offence. Under Section 19, the entity and responsible persons (directors or senior officers) face penalties of up to Kes1 million, 10 years' imprisonment, or both. While public entities are equally obligated to comply, the law does not impose similar criminal penalties for non-compliance, a gap that requires policy attention.

Establishing effective anti-bribery procedures starts with commitment from top leadership. Management must promote a culture of integrity and communicate a zero-tolerance stance on corruption. This sets the ethical tone and drives accountability across the organization.

Entities are also expected to appoint a compliance officer to oversee implementation and ensure timely detection and reporting of bribery risks.

Clear, documented policies should be developed to guide behavior among employees, partners, and third parties. These may include anti-bribery policies, codes of conduct, conflict of interest guidelines, whistleblower protection frameworks, and rules on gifts and hospitality.

A critical component is conducting a bribery and corruption risk assessment. Entities must identify, evaluate, and map potential risks, then design mitigation measures. These efforts should be regularly monitored and updated as risks evolve.

Entities must also establish accessible and secure reporting channels, such as hotlines, emails, or online platforms, for reporting suspected bribery. Under Section 14(1), any public officer or person in authority is legally required to report suspected bribery to EACC within 24 hours.





To support reporting, organizations are required to implement robust whistleblower protection mechanisms. The mechanisms should maintain confidentiality, address victimization or retaliation, and enable anonymous reporting.

Training and awareness are equally vital. All employees, management, and stakeholders must understand the procedures and their roles in upholding them. Ongoing training and communication help embed a strong culture of ethics and compliance.

The law also encourages collaboration across entities. By working together and sharing best practices, organizations can enhance the effectiveness of their anti-bribery efforts across sectors.

Monitoring and evaluation framework must, finally, be established to track compliance, review procedures, and address gaps. These procedures should be reviewed periodically to ensure they remain fit for purpose.

To assist with implementation, EACC offers support under Section 9(3) and Section 12(3) of the Act. The Commission has developed Model Procedures, available on its website, that can be tailored to individual entity needs.

To strengthen public sector compliance, the Head of Public Service on June 30, 2025, issued a circular requiring public entities to establish anti-bribery procedures and report compliance to EACC. The circular further reinstates adherence to corruption prevention procedures as a performance contract target for all public institutions.

In creating an accountable and ethical society, every institution and individual has a role to play. By institutionalizing anti-bribery procedures, organizations not only comply with the law but also contribute to building a transparent, just, and trustworthy nation.

Bribery should no longer be treated as a cost of doing business; it is a criminal offence with significant legal, financial, and reputational consequences.



By Mwongela Mbiti

The Migori case: A lesson in international cooperation against corruption

Between 2013 and 2017, it was alleged approximately Kes2 billion was embezzled from the County Government of Migori. Investigations by the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC) revealed that the funds were siphoned through a web of 16 companies linked to close associates and proxies of the then County Governor, Okoth Obado.

These companies were awarded inflated or fictitious procurement contracts for goods and services that were never delivered. The proceeds were used to purchase high-end properties and luxury vehicles and to pay tuition fees for the governor's children studying abroad.

The scheme reflected a well-coordinated plan where public resources meant for local development were diverted into private gain, both within and outside Kenya.

A fire, paper trail, and the beginning of a long chase

The EACC launched investigations in 2017 after receiving intelligence reports suggesting massive financial irregularities in Migori County. Following a court order, the Commission obtained temporary freezing orders on several properties, including six Nairobi apartments, one townhouse, and 60 plots of land in Migori, reasonably believed to have been purchased using stolen public funds.

A major setback occurred when a fire broke out at the Migori County procurement office on the very day officials were expected to produce key financial records. Despite this, the EACC continued its investigations, securing extensions on freezing orders and gathering alternative documentation from land, company, tax, and personal registries.

Subsequent searches were conducted at the residences and offices of the governor and his main associates. The 16 implicated companies were given an opportunity to justify the tender awards they received from the county government, but they failed to provide satisfactory explanations.

By 2018, the EACC had filed a suit for forfeiture of unexplained assets under the Anti-Corruption and Economic Crimes Act, 2003.

Going global

Further investigations established that a significant portion of the illicit proceeds had been moved abroad. To uncover these international links, the EACC in May 2018 formally sought assistance from the International Anti-Corruption Coordination Centre (IACCC), a global multi-agency platform based in London that supports grand corruption investigations.

The EACC's request covered information on possible overseas bank accounts, property purchases, educational payments, and travel records linked to Governor Obado, his children, and close associates.

Within weeks, the IACCC mobilized its network of member agencies across several jurisdictions and initiated intelligence collection, including open-source and agency-based data.

In July 2018, the first IACCC intelligence report indicated strong connections to Australia, detailing financial products and accounts linked to Obado's associates, some of which were used to purchase property.

A second report followed in August 2018, revealing further connections to the United Kingdom, including international bank accounts and travel records. The intelligence also traced substantial cash transfers to Obado's children studying abroad, confirming that the proceeds of corruption had financed their overseas expenses.

These findings not only corroborated domestic suspicions but also uncovered new investigative leads in multiple jurisdictions, allowing the EACC to expand its asset-tracing efforts.

The outcome

Armed with the IACCC intelligence, the EACC, supported by a technical advisor from the Basel Institute's International Centre for Asset Recovery (ICAR), drafted precise Mutual Legal Assistance (MLA) requests to obtain admissible evidence from foreign jurisdictions.

This collaboration ensured that the MLA requests were specific and evidence-based, increasing their likelihood of a timely and positive response. The requested jurisdictions, notably Australia, England, and Wales, responded promptly between 2019 and 2020. They provided evidence from banks, universities, and property companies that confirmed the purchase of assets and payment of fees with illicit funds.

This documentary evidence became the foundation for negotiations leading to an out-of-court settlement valued at Kes235.6 million, comprising eight properties and two luxury vehicles purchased abroad.

Upon liquidation, the proceeds are to be deposited into Kenya's Consolidated Fund, marking a successful repatriation of public assets lost through corruption.

The impact of international cooperation

The Migori case underscores the pivotal role of international cooperation mechanisms in combating cross-border corruption and recovering stolen assets.

Firstly, the IACCC's structure allowed the EACC to submit one consolidated request rather than multiple, time-consuming appeals to individual countries. The IACCC streamlined responses from its member agencies, enabling the EACC to access fast, actionable intelligence and to refine its MLA requests.

This approach saved months of procedural delays and ensured that the evidence gathered abroad could meet Kenya's evidentiary standards for asset recovery proceedings.

Secondly, the intelligence obtained through the IACCC gave foreign central authorities confidence that Kenya's requests were specific, proportionate, and founded on credible preliminary findings. This facilitated expedited review and execution of MLA requests, bridging the gap between intelligence and evidence.

An IACCC representative noted that because Kenya's requests were informed by verified intelligence, they were treated as high-

quality and precise, prompting swift responses from authorities in the UK and Australia.

Thirdly, the Basel Institute's ICAR provided embedded, case-based mentorship to EACC investigators, guiding them through the complexities of tracing financial flows across jurisdictions and preparing admissible MLA documentation.

ICAR's technical support proved instrumental in translating raw intelligence into prosecutable evidence, while simultaneously strengthening the institutional capacity of EACC officers to manage future transnational corruption cases.

Conclusion

The Migori County corruption case exemplifies how strategic international cooperation can bridge investigative gaps in complex, cross-border corruption schemes.

Through the concerted efforts of the EACC, IACCC, and ICAR, Kenya successfully traced and recovered assets hidden abroad, demonstrating that even sophisticated corruption networks can be dismantled through collaboration and intelligence sharing.

Some Statistics



4.8 B

Value of assets targeted in over 80 recovery suits filed by the Commission in the past year, reflecting intensified asset recovery efforts.

Ongoing Asset Recovery Efforts



30 M

Value of road reserve land recovered that had been grabbed in Nyali, Mombasa; reserved for the expansion of Links Road adjoining 1st Avenue.



35 M

Value of the recovered prime parcel of land belonging to the State Department for Housing and Urban Development, located next to the Bungoma State Lodge in the Milimani area of Bungoma Town.



75.4M

Value realised from the Public auction of six (6) prime properties, recovered from the former Migori Governor Okoth Obado and former head of Treasury at the City County of Nairobi, Mr. Stephen Osiro. Other assets belonging to the two individuals are scheduled to be auctioned in the coming days.



50 M

Value of public land recovered within the Kenya Railways Light House Kizingo Estate in Mombasa County, belonging to the Kenya Railways Corporation.

Pictorial



📷 EACC CEO Abdi A. Mohamud with Adv. J.L. Andy Mothibi, Head and CEO of South Africa's Special Investigating Unit and IAACA Vice President, during a courtesy visit at the Integrity Centre,



📷 From right: H.E. Cecily Mbarire, Governor of Embu County, EACC Commissioner Colonel (Rtd) Alfred Mshimba, Head of EACC's Central Regional Office Mr. Japheth Baithalu, and GLZ partners during a courtesy visit to discuss the establishment of Corruption Prevention Committees in Embu County



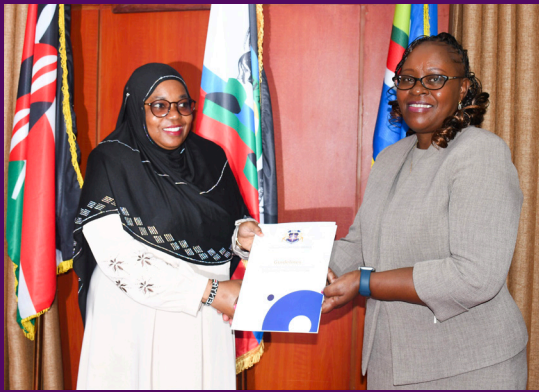
📷 Hon. Geoffrey Ruku, Cabinet Secretary for Public Service, Human Capital Development and Special Programmes (left), exchanges greetings with EACC Chairperson Dr. David Oginde at the Kenya School of Government during a capacity-building programme for senior government officials from Kenya, Ghana and South Africa,



📷 EACC Commissioner Dr. Cecelia Mutuku, speaking during a youth engagement forum, at Kirinyaga University on Tuesday, in November 2025



📷 EACC CEO Abdi A. Mohamud engages with EACC staff members, from left: Dr. Josephine Monyi, David Kang'ara, David Kaikir and Rodgers Akaki, during a one-month intelligence training programme at the Kenya School of Government in October



📷 Kwale Governor H.E. Fatuma Mohamed welcomes EACC Vice Chairperson Dr. Monica Muiru at the County Headquarters during discussions on establishing a Corruption Prevention Committee.



📷 H.E. Kwale Governor Fatuma Mohamed meets with EACC team led by Vice Chairperson Dr. Monica Muiru and the GIZ Good Governance team at Kwale County Headquarters



📷 Colonel (Rtd) Alfred Mshimba, EACC Commissioner, meets Dr. John Erus, Deputy Governor of Turkana County, during discussions on establishing a Corruption Prevention Committee



📷 EACC CEO Abdi A. Mohamud with Kenyan Ambassador to Washington D.C. H.E. David Kerich, when the CEO inaugurated the Advanced Public Corruption Training for EACC staff at the FBI Academy in Quantico.



📷 EACC Commissioner John Ogallo (far right) and Deputy Director for Ethics Development and Monitoring David Kaboro (first left) pose for a photo during the Public Protector of South Africa (PPSA) Conference held in Cape Town from October 13 to 16, 2025. They are joined by Professor Luis Franceschi, Deputy Secretary of the Commonwealth (second from left), and Advocate Kholeka Gcaleka, Public Protector of the Republic of South Africa



📷 EACC officers undertaking the Advanced Public Corruption Training at the FBI Academy in Quantico, Virginia, USA.



By FCPA Edward Ouko

Rethinking Kenya's fight against corruption through predictive prevention

Kenya's battle against corruption has long been characterized by headline-grabbing investigations, dramatic arrests, and high-profile prosecutions.

The Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC) has, over the years, invested a significant proportion of its operational resources in reactive investigations, driven by whistleblower complaints, media exposés, and audit flags. These investigations have uncovered elaborate schemes of theft, abuse of office, procurement fraud, and unethical conduct across both the national and county governments.

The results are not insignificant. Numerous cases have led to prosecutions, recovered assets, and provided a measure of accountability that is vital in any democratic society. The EACC has built formidable technical capacity, and its investigators have often operated under great risk and immense political pressure. However, for all the effort and commendable gains, a growing number of Kenyans remain skeptical.

The public sentiment is palpable: corruption continues to flourish. The same schemes reappear with slight variations. Investigations drag, convictions remain sporadic, and systemic reform seems elusive. Citizens are beginning to ask, "To what end?" Even the most successful investigations now draw applause laced with cynicism.

It's time, perhaps, to ask an uncomfortable but necessary question: Are we fighting corruption in a way that guarantees

long-term results? Or are we simply reacting to symptoms, rather than addressing causes?

The reactive model, while important, inherently positions the Commission as a firefighter, always arriving after the blaze has started. Investigations are triggered after resources have already been lost, decisions have already been manipulated, and damage has already been done. By then, trust is already eroded, and the public purse is lighter.

Moreover, the cost of these investigations is substantial in time, money, and manpower. With a substantial proportion of resources consumed in trying to catch perpetrators after the fact, only a modest share remains for disruption, prevention, research, public education, and systems analysis. This imbalance limits the Commission's ability to shape institutional culture or influence behavior before ethical lapses occur.

In the long run, this model—no matter how sophisticated the detection—becomes unsustainable. It is akin to using a mop to clean a floor while the tap remains open.

To its credit, the EACC has not ignored prevention. There have been notable efforts in mainstreaming ethics in public institutions, conducting corruption risk assessments, developing codes of conduct, and training public officials. The recent lifestyle audits, although met with resistance, signaled a significant shift toward proactive scrutiny.



But in truth, prevention remains underutilized—treated as a supportive function rather than a central strategic approach.

The Commission must reimagine prevention not as a peripheral activity, but as the first line of defense. It must be anticipatory, predictive, and deterrent.

The global discourse on anti-corruption has evolved significantly. More institutions are beginning to adopt a risk-based, data-driven, and behaviorally informed approach to prevention. Kenya cannot afford to be left behind. Here are some ways EACC could take the lead in reimagining its prevention strategy:

Using data analytics and artificial intelligence, the Commission can begin to identify patterns and hotspots of corruption before they occur. Procurement data, audit reports, wealth declarations, project timelines, budgets, and public expenditure flows—when integrated and analyzed—can flag anomalies and trigger early warnings.

For instance, why wait for a whistleblower when payment patterns in a county health department already suggest irregular vendor relationships? Predictive tools would allow the Commission to deploy preventive interventions in real-time, not after a scandal breaks. Importantly, engage management or public servants in a friendly, non-intrusive discussion on ethics and matters of conflict of interest.

Recent research shows that small changes in institutional design can significantly influence ethical behavior. By redesigning reporting formats, altering approval workflows, and integrating reminders of ethical codes at decision points, public officers can be “nudged” towards integrity.

The EACC can work with behavioral scientists to design and pilot anti-corruption nudges in high-risk departments—procurement, revenue collection, licensing—and monitor impact.

Corruption often thrives where systems are opaque, manual, and discretionary. Prevention, therefore, must include systemic reforms. The Commission can lead in pushing for digitization of public services, transparency portals, e-procurement platforms, and the integration of accountability features into service design.

Rather than simply auditing outcomes, the EACC can co-create systems that are corruption-resistant by design.

Empowered citizens are the best watchdogs. Prevention must go beyond seminars and brochures. Communities, youth groups, and professionals must be mobilized as integrity champions. Civil society and media can be equipped with tools to monitor public projects, report corruption risks, and verify service delivery.

The goal is to move from awareness to co-ownership of the fight against corruption.

While punitive measures are necessary, recognizing and rewarding ethical behavior is equally powerful. The Commission can institutionalize awards for ethical leadership, promote integrity role models, and partner with professional associations to uphold ethical excellence in various sectors.

A positive reinforcement strategy would help counter the fatalism that corruption is inevitable.

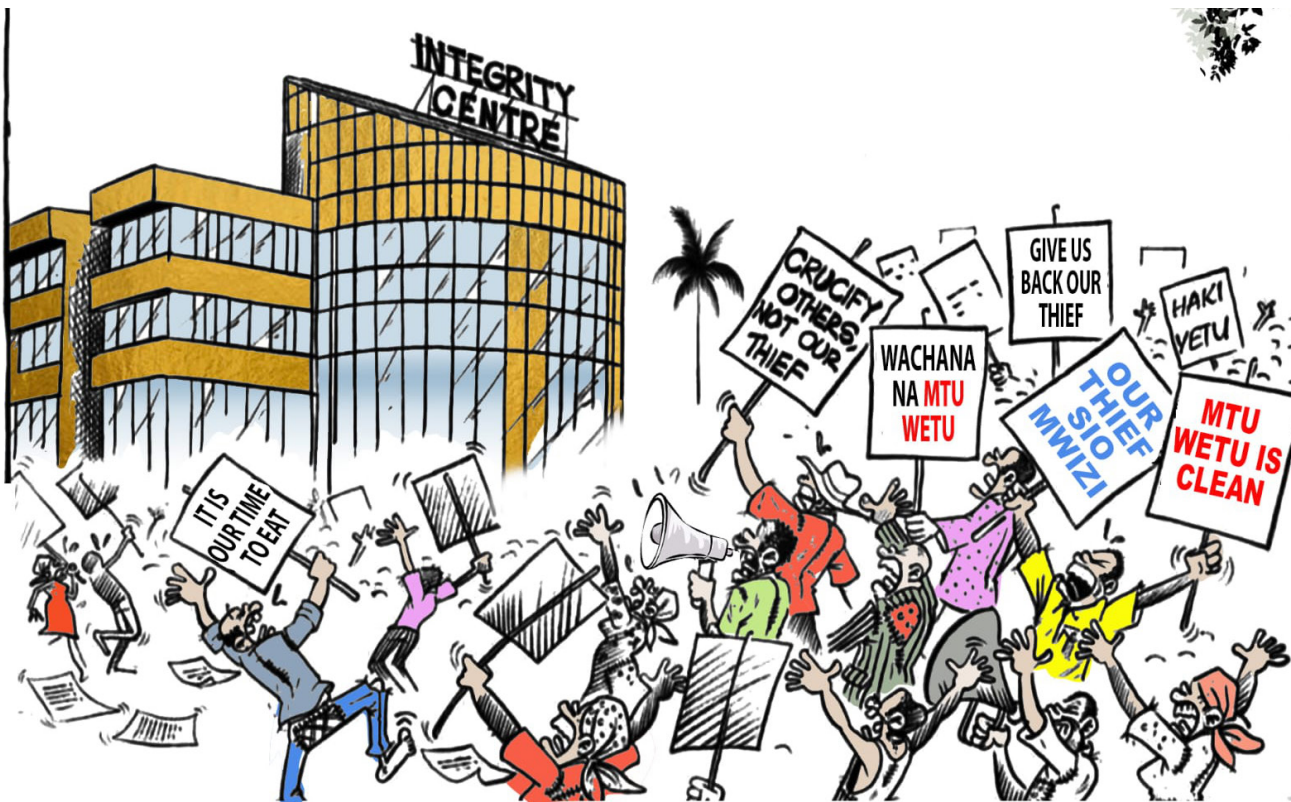
Kenya is not short of anti-corruption policies, institutions, or even good intentions. What it needs now is a shift in paradigm—from reacting to symptoms to confronting root causes; from focusing only on prosecution to embracing strategic prevention as the true game-changer.

EACC stands at a crossroads. Its achievements in investigations are worthy of recognition. But to truly deliver on the public's expectations—and safeguard the integrity of the state—it must now lead a national conversation on rethinking prevention.

It has been intimated in various quarters that corruption and wastages gobble up to 30% of the annual budget; others give estimates of Kes2 billion daily! Rethinking Kenya's fight against corruption through predictive prevention by EACC is a strategy for serious reflection. The strategy to safeguard public resources and/or reduce the proportion that corruption gobbles would be a laudable one.

It's time to invest more in staying ahead of corruption, rather than chasing it from behind. For in the words of the old adage, “An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.”

The writer is a former Auditor General of the Republic of Kenya.



By Sheila Masinde

Why public engagement is crucial in tackling corruption in Kenya

The phrase “All sovereign power belongs to the people” is more than just a clause in the Constitution; it is a powerful testament to one of the fundamental ideals that Kenyans embraced under the 2010 Constitution. Article 10(2) further enshrines national values and principles of governance, including good governance, integrity, transparency, and accountability.

Kenya’s consistently low CPI score of 32 out of 100 in 2024, below both the Sub-Saharan Africa average of 33 and the global average of 43, highlights a persistent gap between the country’s constitutional aspirations and its governance realities. Despite the existence of robust anti-corruption laws and institutions, implementation and enforcement remain weak. This disconnect undermines constitutional values, erodes public trust in state institutions, and impedes equitable service delivery, economic development, and social justice. In effect, the CPI score is a stark reminder that the promise that “all sovereign power belongs to the people” risks being hollow if public authority is exercised without integrity and accountability.

According to the Kenya Bribery Index 2025, two-thirds of respondents perceived corruption levels as worsening. Similarly, the 2024 EACC National Ethics and Corruption Survey ranked corruption as the second most critical problem facing the country. Corruption drives many governance and development challenges, benefiting those in power while imposing high costs on ordinary citizens through poor service delivery in critical sectors

such as health and education. It fuels inequality, poverty, and unemployment, undermines justice, and contributes to human rights violations, conflict, and insecurity. Its impact on daily life is undeniable, making it essential for citizens to take an active stand against it.

The 2024 and 2025 Gen Z-led protests exemplify youth engagement in demanding good governance, the rule of law, respect for human rights, and an end to inequality, unfair economic policies, excessive taxation, and corruption. TI-Kenya’s Kenya Bribery Index 2025 shows that 42% of respondents view voting for good leadership, educating fellow citizens, or taking a personal stand by upholding integrity as their preferred contribution to fighting corruption. Citizens, as such, place greater trust in their own efforts than in the media, civil society, or religious institutions, signalling a shift toward citizen-driven action. Public support may well be the tipping point in winning the fight against corruption.

Such support can take many forms: upholding personal integrity, refusing to pay bribes or unauthorized fees, reporting corruption to relevant agencies, and speaking out wherever it occurs. It also includes whistleblowing and consistently demanding transparency and accountability across all sectors.

Kenyans can leverage existing social structures, ‘Nyumba Kumi’ units, religious communities, alumni networks, and professional associations, to strengthen social accountability and demand integrity in public service.



Senior Education Officer Jackson Sokoine facilitates a training session in Kisumu during a public outreach initiative by EACC's Education and Public Awareness Department



Second from right: H.E. Cecily Mbarire, Governor of Embu County, with EACC officials and GIZ partners displaying the Corruption Risk Assessment Guidelines during a courtesy visit on the establishment of Corruption Prevention Committees in Embu County



EACC Education Officer Mr. Nephth Mbaao engages participants and showgoers at the EACC booth during the recently concluded ASK Kitale Show at the Trans Nzoia County showgrounds.



Ms. Regina Muriuki, Deputy Director, Evidence Analysis (left), confers with Ms. Sheila Masinde, Executive Director, Transparency International-Kenya (right), during a courtesy call by Transparency International-Kenya and the British High Commission to the EACC at the Integrity Centre.

These trusted, organized groups can educate members on corruption risks, monitor local projects, and collectively track government budgets through social audits and public expenditure tracking. They can convene community dialogues, engage governance experts, collaborate with oversight bodies, and hold leaders accountable to uphold national values and constitutional standards.

Similarly, electing leaders who meet the integrity standards of Chapter 6 of the Constitution, as well as initiating petitions, demonstrations, and court cases against corrupt practices, has proven effective, as demonstrated by past and ongoing suits and petitions led by, among others, TI-Kenya.

Artivism, the strategic use of creative expression to promote social change, has also played a key role in Kenya's fight against corruption. Research shows it gives communities a voice, creates spaces for protest and accountability, and opens non-traditional channels for citizen engagement. Through murals, street theatre, spoken word, and other creative acts, ordinary Kenyans challenge corrupt practices, highlight accountability gaps, and spark public deliberation. For instance, in 2012, TI-Kenya organized a mobile caravan in Nairobi where a youth theatre group performed skits to raise awareness of corruption's impact on public services. In 2017, under its Action for Transparency project, TI-Kenya hosted a workshop for artists to build skills in budget-tracking, corruption reporting, and public participation, enabling creatives to translate governance issues into accessible art forms.

Elsewhere, state and non-state actors have adopted various tools and technologies to address under-reporting, providing citizens with safe, reliable, and convenient ways to report corruption, challenge wrongdoing, and access crucial information. Public support also entails fostering collaboration among stakeholders and advocating for the proper resourcing, independence, and accountability of anti-corruption institutions.

However, public engagement is often undermined by weak or unimplemented laws, the absence of protections such as whistleblower legislation, bureaucratic hurdles in accessing information, inaction by anti-corruption agencies, lengthy judicial processes, and the perception that only "small fish" are held accountable while "big fish" escape justice. Recent cases in which high-level corruption charges were dropped, followed by appointments to public office, have further fuelled public outrage and eroded confidence in the independence of anti-corruption institutions.

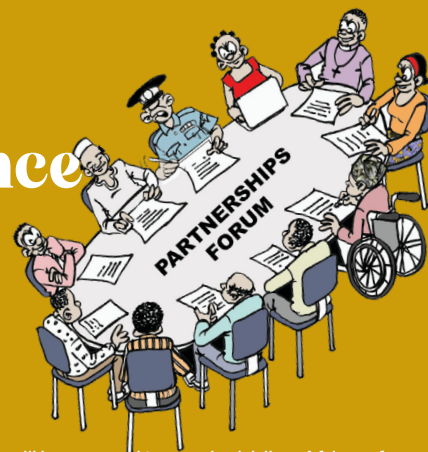
Despite these challenges, citizens must continue to envision and demand a corruption-free Kenya for themselves and future generations. As seen during the 2024 anti-Finance Bill protests, the public holds the power to drive change and must actively exercise it to ensure accountability and integrity in governance.

Writer is Executive Director at Transparency International Kenya.



By Faith Mituki

Advancing good governance through partnerships in research and training



EACC has made great strides in impacting good governance by empowering public officers and nonstate actors with requisite knowledge and competencies to fight corruption through education and training. The establishment of the National Integrity Academy (NIAca) seven years ago marked a major milestone towards this effort.

Registered under the Technical and Vocational Education and Training Authority (TVETA) and accredited by the National Industrial Training Authority (NITA), one of the key components of NIAca's Strategic Plan 2024-2028 is tactical partnerships and collaboration.

Partnerships play a crucial role in strengthening governance frameworks, enhancing transparency and ensuring accountability in service delivery. Most of NIAca's partners are drawn from the education sector and public institutions.

In today's interconnected world, the pursuit of good governance and accountability can no longer be confined to the efforts of government institutions alone. NIAca works with several strategic partners internationally, regionally, and locally. This has seen it undertake international benchmarking forums, mount regional trainings, and locally undertake training across the public sector. Through formal cooperation with stakeholders, the Academy has entered into Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with a number of public entities and looks forward to expanding to include the private sector. One such partnership is with the Kenya School of Government (KSG), through which NIAca is able to access and conduct trainings in all of the KSG campuses across the country.

NIAca also partners with professional bodies to conduct joint trainings for their members, including the Kenya Institute of Supplies Management, the Institute of Certified Secretaries, and the Institute of Human Resources Management, among others.

In the area of curriculum development, NIAca partnered with the Institute of Human Resources Management and jointly developed a curriculum for the human resources professionals, which was launched in 2024.

Apart from offering training for public institutions, the Academy also assists them to develop their corruption prevention instruments. One such institution is the Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA), where the Academy supported the institution to develop their Institutional Integrity Assurance Officers (IAOs) training module. The module is currently being used to train over 11,000 employees internally at the Kenya School of Revenue Administration (KESRA).

Through the Commission, NIAca has benefitted in terms of technical and financial support from development partners, notably the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), which oversaw the review of NIAca's curriculum. UNODC also funded the development of NIAca's Excellence Plan and is foreseeing the development of the Electronic Learning Management System (E-LMS), a digital tool that will assist NIAca in digitalizing all its training operations.

New trends on corruption, economic crime and unethical conduct are emerging that favor research and in-depth studies on the modus operandi for this pandemic.

It is against this backdrop that the African states under the auspices of the Association of African Anti-Corruption Authorities (AAACA) came up with the urgent need to establish a one-stop continental Centre to coordinate anti-corruption research and studies in order to mitigate the after-effects of this cancer.

Following a competitive bid process, on January 10th, 2024, Kenya won the bid to host the Centre for Research and Anti-Corruption Studies in Africa (CEREAC). Its main mandate is to coordinate research centres across Africa in the fight against corruption.

This will be geared towards ridding Africa of corrupt practices, hence promoting a culture of good governance through research and a common policy. Kenya is hosting the Centre, with EACC providing the platform for anti-corruption studies, training and research.

During the 7th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Association of African Anti-Corruption Authorities (AAACA) in Algiers, Algeria, Kenya was nominated to host the 8th AGM in 2026, a landmark event that will also see the official launch of CEREAC. This is a partnership that is going to incorporate the entire African continent and several development partners keen on funding the initiative, and in the process enhance the visibility of EACC in the continent.

Partnerships bring along unique strengths, which, if well harnessed, can lead to transformative changes. Strategic partnerships bring together all actors to co-create policies, monitor implementation and ensure that public resources are used efficiently and equitably.

Partnerships are not without challenges. Power imbalances, lack of coordination, limited funding, and mutual suspicion can hinder progress. However, when approached intentionally, these challenges can be mitigated through structured dialogue platforms, inclusive decision-making processes and transparent communication.

In conclusion, strategic partnerships and collaborations offer a promising path forward, one that aligns with democratic ideals and sustainable development goals. As we navigate increasingly complex governance landscapes, let us foster partnerships that are built on trust, shared goals and a commitment to the public good.

Only then can we create institutions that are not only efficient and responsive but also truly accountable to the people they serve. NIAca is open to more strategic partnerships and collaborations in its pursuit of more effective and impactful training programmes.



ESSAYS



The youth: Frontline soldiers in the fight against corruption

Corruption has undermined trust in government systems, has hindered economic development, and has increased inequality and poverty. Corruption has troubled the nation for a long time. The youth can fight it in various ways;

Firstly, education and awareness: The youth can be educated on integrity. This will instill values such as honesty, responsibility, and fairness in the youths. Using digital social media platforms, educational forums, and community discussions to boldly note the negative effects of corruption.

Secondly, understanding anti-corruption laws: the youth should take part in learning about anti-corruption laws and conventions. This will help the youths to know their rights, roles, and responsibilities in the fight against corruption. They should also collect and share citizen feedback on the public services to identify corruption-related issues.

Thirdly, advocacy: The youth should support initiatives that promote transparency and integrity in government and business activities. Using technology and social media, they can monitor public spending, report unethical conduct, and hold those in power accountable for their actions.

Fourth, the youth should actively participate in public life: this should be through full involvement in the decision-making process to make their voices heard. In the electoral process the youth should be engaged by supporting initiatives that support free and fair elections. They should condemn corrupt candidates.

Lastly, the youth can also join and support anti-corruption groups that volunteer and are dedicated to fighting corruption. They can use digital platforms such as social media to increase awareness, mobilize support, and monitor corruption-related activities. The youth can also develop innovative solutions and tools such as mobile apps and websites to track and report corruption issues.

The fight against corruption is the fight for the soul of the nation. The youths are soldiers fighting in the front line. With enough determination and persistence, the youth will prevail. Together let us all fight corruption and promote integrity.

Trevor Henry Nwangi

Kilimani School


Leading with integrity: How I would serve as sports captain

If I were elected as the Sports Captain of my school, I would see it not just as an honor but as a great responsibility to lead with honesty, fairness, and dedication. My goal would be to ensure that every decision I make benefits the sports department and inspires trust among my fellow students. This is how I would demonstrate integrity in my leadership and make my term a success story.

My first step would be to ensure fairness in team selections. I would organize open trials for all sports, where every interested student would have an equal opportunity to showcase their talent. To make the process transparent, I would involve the sports teachers and keep clear records of performance. This way, no student would feel left out because of favoritism or personal connections, and the best athletes would earn their positions based purely on merit.

I would also lead by example in the field. In any game, if a mistake or foul happened and the referee missed it, I would have the courage to speak the truth, even if it meant losing a point. I believe that sportsmanship is more important than winning through dishonesty. This honesty would encourage my teammates to uphold the same values, helping us earn respect from our opponents and the community.

To promote unity and discipline, I would hold regular meetings with team members to hear their ideas, suggestions, and concerns. This open communication would make everyone feel valued and encourage cooperation. I would also make sure that sports resources, such as kits and equipment, are shared equally and used responsibly, avoiding any form of favoritism or misuse.



During competitions, I would encourage my teams to play with determination, respect, and humility whether we win or lose. I would remind them that our reputation as honest and disciplined players is just as important as bringing home trophies. By focusing on both skill and character, I would help build a lasting culture of sportsmanship in the school.

In conclusion, if I were elected as Sports Captain, I would ensure that every decision I make is guided by the values of honesty, fairness, and respect. My aim would be to create a sports culture where teamwork, discipline, and integrity are valued more than personal gain.

Through leading by example, promoting transparency, and treating everyone equally, I would work to leave a lasting legacy that inspires future sports leaders to uphold the same values. True success in leadership is not only about winning games but also about winning trust, and that is the victory I would strive for.

Shebah Kwamboka Sagini

Kereri Girls High School

Why the youth are in the best position to fight corruption

Corruption remains one of the greatest threats to development, injustice, and equality across the world. It erodes trust in public institutions, widens inequality, and discourages efforts towards progress. However, one of the most powerful forces capable of combating corruption is the youth. Young people, with their energy, innovation, and ideas, play a crucial role in shaping and building integrity in society.

The first step in fighting corruption is understanding what it is and how it affects society. The youth can take the lead in promoting awareness through campaigns in social media, community outreach, and school programs. By educating their peers and communities about the dangers and forms of corruption, they help create a culture that rejects unethical behavior. Moreover, incorporating anti-corruption and ethics lessons in schools and universities can instill strong values early on, resulting in a generation of principled citizens.

Moreover, today's youths can harness technology to expose corrupt practices and promote accountability. Through mobile apps, social media platforms, and data-driven tools, young innovators can develop systems that track public spending, report corrupt acts anonymously, and ensure transparency in governance. Whistleblower platforms and blockchain-based solutions are just a few examples of how technology can support transparency.

Youth must also lead by example. Integrity begins with personal actions. Refusing to cheat in exams, declining bribes and speaking up when they witness wrongdoing is crucial. By being role models of integrity in their schools, workplaces and communities, youths can inspire others

to uphold ethical values. Integrity is contagious, and when young people consistently demonstrate it, they influence the broader culture in society.

Further, the youth have the power to demand change. Through peaceful protests, writing petitions, participating in debates, and involvement in youth-led organizations, they can pressure the government to enact and enforce anti-corruption laws. Encouraging transparency in institutions, pushing for fair hiring processes, and supporting freedom of the press are ways the youth can contribute to building a just society.

By taking part in student councils, local governments or civic programs, youth can gain firsthand experience in leadership. This not only helps build ethical decision-makers for the future but also provides a platform to implement anti-corruption measures within their reach. Responsible political engagement and active citizenship enable young people to influence the systems that govern their lives.

Fighting corruption is not the responsibility of one person or institution; it is a collective effort. The youth, with their courage, creativity and moral clarity, are uniquely positioned to lead this fight. By educating themselves and others, using technology, living with integrity, advocating for change and participating in governance, they can break the cycle of corruption and build a future where honesty, fairness and justice thrive.

Evans Wambua Musyoki

Nakuru High School

Poetry

Voices of the youth

In a world where silence feeds the lie,
Where justice often walks awry,
A spark ignites, both bold and bright
The youth arise to set things right.
With eyes unclouded, hearts sincere,
They see through greed, expose the fear.
No bribe can buy their burning will,
Their courage speaks, defiant, still.
They march with truth as a trusted guide,
No longer choosing just to hide.
Through words and action, loud and clear,
They challenge power without fear.
They hold their leaders to account,
Ask questions that begin to mount.
Demanding answers, honest, fair
Their voices echo everywhere.
With phones and pens, they light the flame,
Through screens and signs, they name and shame.
Corruption trembles at their call,
For lies can't stand when young hearts brawl.
They plant the seeds in every school,
Of honesty as the golden rule.
Integrity not just a word
But something felt, and seen, and heard.
They lead by choosing what is right,
Refusing deals made out of sight.
Each act of truth, though small it seems,
Builds up the world once held in dreams.
So let them rise and take the lead,
The youth who dare, the youth who heed.
For in their hands, the future lies
A world more just beneath clean skies.

Ni jukumu letu sote, ufisadi kukomesha

Salamu zipokeeni, kote nchini zifike,
Naomba makinikeni, nisemayo muyashike
Leo nawakumbusheni, lazima tuwajibike
Ni jukumu letu sote, ufisadi kukomesha

Ufisadi waharibu, nyanja nyingi metatiza
Watusumbua ajabu, maswali twajuliza
Ipi dawa mujarabu, janga hili kutokomeza,
Ni jukumu letu sote, ufisadi kukomesha

Kwa watoto na vijana, yahimizwe maadili
Mja heshima dhamana, muhimu kuwa adili
Haki waipende sana, dhuluma siikubali
Ni jukumu letu sote, ufisadi kukomesha

Enyi wetu wahudumu, katiba zingatieni
Huduma bora fahamu, ni wajibu timizeni
Mtetelezapo zamu, maadili yakwezeni,
Ni jukumu letu sote, ufisadi kukomesha

Wakenya tusilegee, uzalendo tudumishe
Sheria tuzingatie, umakini tuzidishe
Miradi tuikague, matokeo yaridhishe
Ni jukumu letu sote, ufisadi kukomesha

Jamvi hapa nakunjia, muhimu tuunganeni,
Pamoja nawaambia, hatua tutapigeni
Taifa kuendelea, ufisadi tupingeni,
Ni jukumu letu sote, ufisadi kukomesha

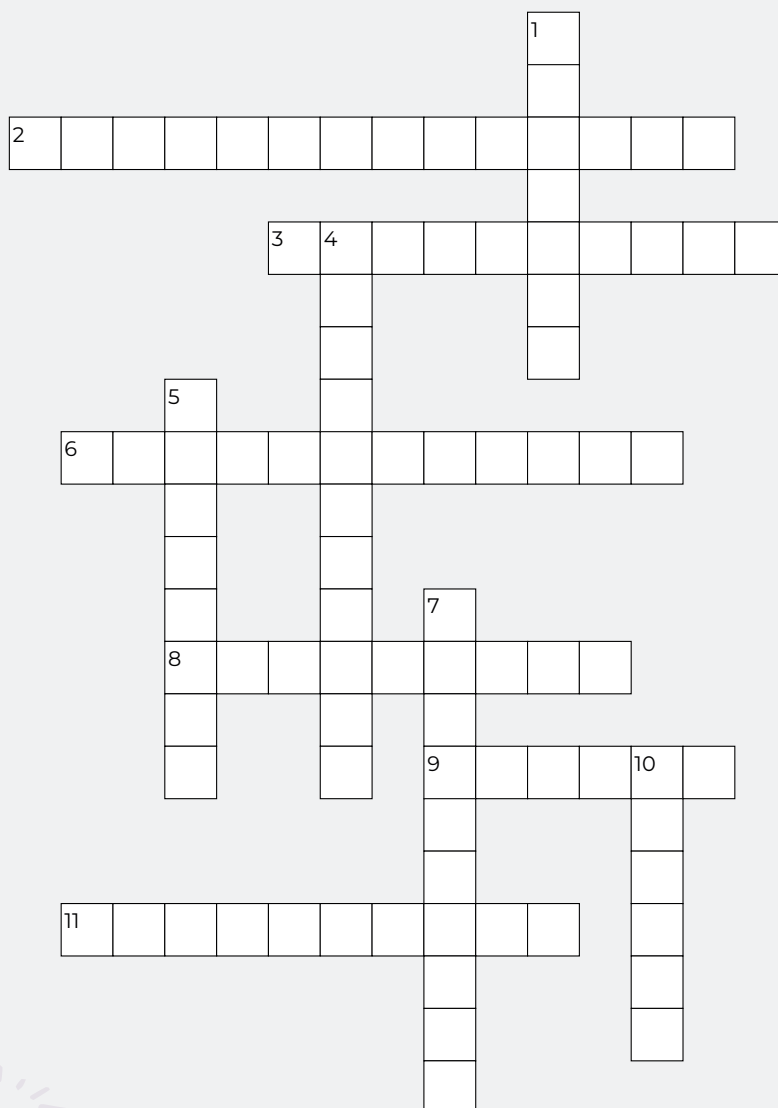
Shallet Walongo. HSC
Afisa wa Elimu na Uhamasishaji wa Umma
EACC - Malindi

The line has been drawn

(Inspired by Kenya's Conflict of Interest Act, 2025)

In July's sun, the ink was cast,
A promise made - to break the past.
Where greed once whispered, "Just this time,"
The law stood tall, drew its line.
No more secret deals in the night,
No more shadows hiding from light.
EACC now stands, bold and wise,
Watching with Kenya's open eyes.
Declare what's yours, don't play disguise,
Let truth be clear - no hidden lies.
Your wealth, your land, your children's share,
Let honesty breathe the open air.
If conflict calls, just step aside,
Let duty, not desire, guide.
No office gains from shady ties,
No tenders built on secret lies.
And when you leave that public chair,
Don't rush for deals - the law is fair.
Take time, cool off, let values stay,
Integrity must lead the way.
So Kenya rise, from shore to hill,
Let justice shine, let truth fulfil.
For this new law, both firm and just,
Reminds us all - serve with trust.

Simple integrity puzzle



Across

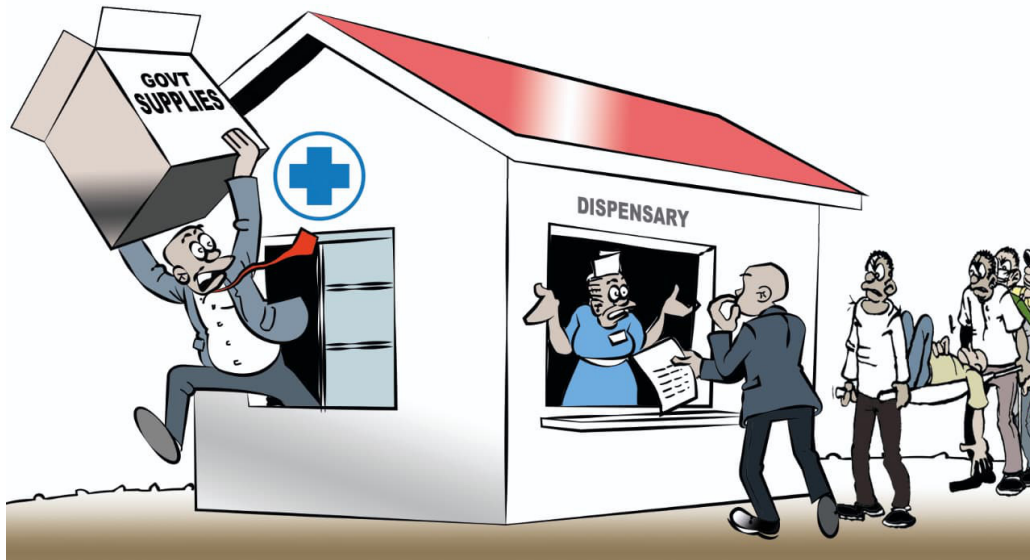
1. Working together in a structured way to achieve something that benefits all involved parties.
2. Concealing proceeds of crime.
3. The ability to work together efficiently.
4. Doing the right all the time even when no one is watching.
5. Beliefs/principles and standards of behaviour.
6. Person who institutes legal proceedings against someone.

Down

1. Offering or giving illegal favours.
2. Producing a suspect before a court of law.
3. Dispute between two or more parties.
4. The action of stopping something from happening.
5. Principles of right and wrong.



Scan me for answers!



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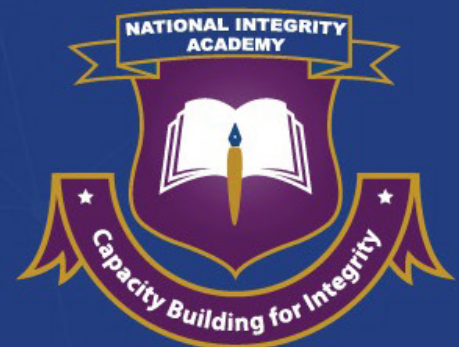
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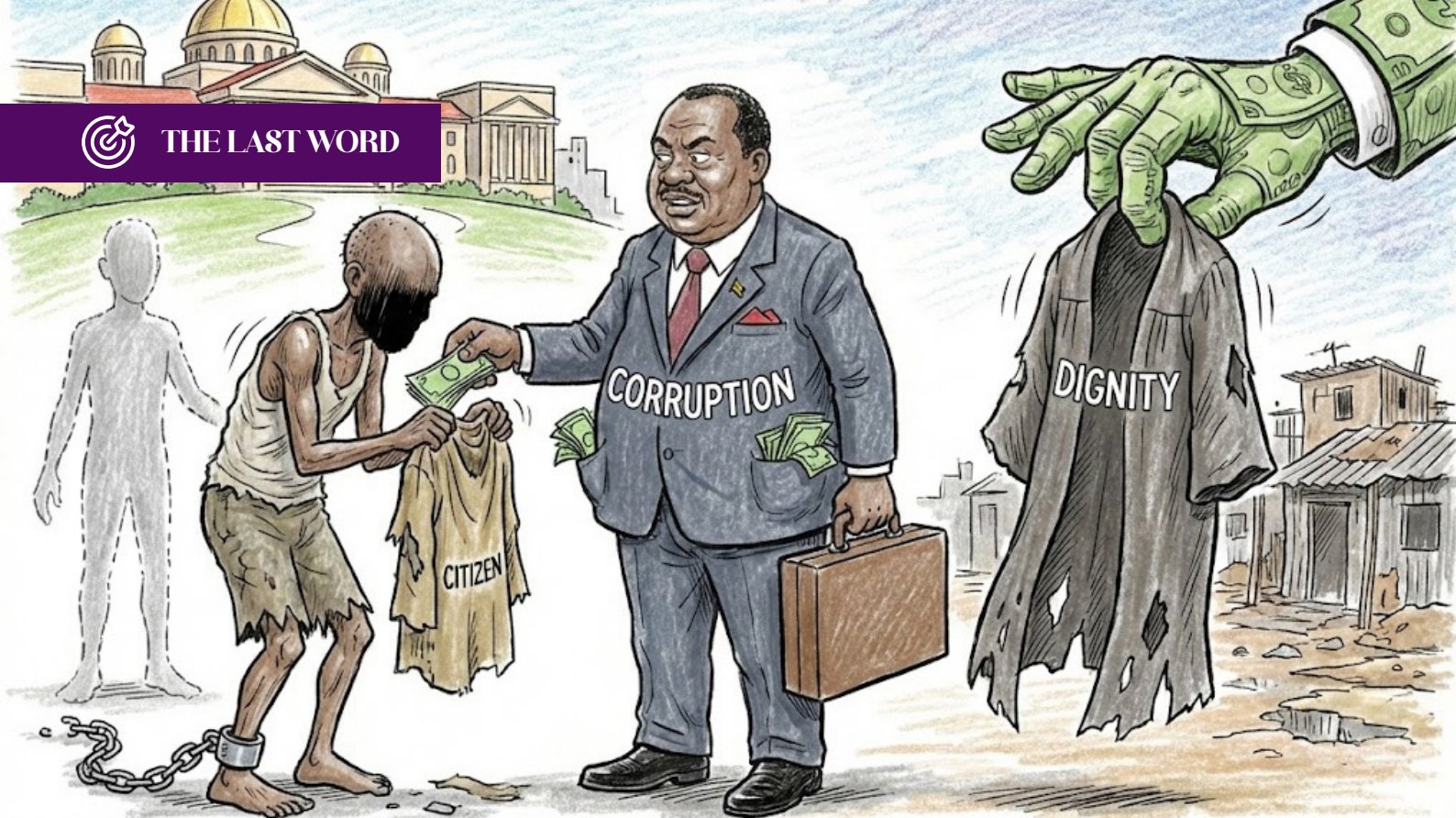
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By Dr. Monica Muiru

Corruption robs human dignity

Graft erodes rights, weakens institutions, and undermines justice, making human-rights approaches essential to the fight against corruption.

Corruption in Kenya is a daily concern for citizens across all walks of life, underscoring its persistence, pervasiveness, and corrosive impact on society. It is not merely an economic or governance issue but a profound human rights concern that undermines the foundation of human dignity.

Scholars increasingly postulate that the scale and consequences of corruption elevate it to the level of crimes against humanity, considering its systemic erosion of rights and societal well-being.

Corruption in Kenya occurs through various practices, including bribery, extortion, nepotism, fraud, embezzlement, and undue influence, among others. Transparency International's 2024 Corruption Perceptions Index ranked Kenya 121 out of 180 countries, a marginal improvement from 2023, but still signalling entrenched graft. Corruption permeates the judiciary, education, healthcare, lands, and other vital sectors of the economy, stripping citizens of essential goods and services and undermining their dignity.

Justice and rule of law

The Judiciary, ideally the guarantor of justice, has at times been accused of being complicit in human rights abuses. Bribery, nepotism, and political interference distort due process, leading to unfair trials and delayed justice. High-profile corruption cases are often stalled by procedural manipulations and conservatory orders, allowing perpetrators to escape accountability.

When courts appear to shield rather than confront corruption, public trust erodes, and citizens are denied justice, which is a core component of human dignity.

Basic services and social rights

Education serves as a pathway to equality, yet systemic corruption has compromised its potential in Kenya. Scandals such as the embezzlement of Free Primary Education funds and the financing of "ghost schools" have diverted critical resources, leaving classrooms overcrowded and under-resourced. Auditor-General reports (2023 - 2024) highlight irregular disbursements, mismanagement of book distribution funds, and funds paid to nonexistent schools.

Additionally, exam cheating, bribery for admissions, and sexual exploitation of students undermine academic integrity and violate students' rights and dignity. These failures particularly disadvantage girls and marginalized communities, entrenching inequality.

In the health sector, corruption directly undermines the right to life. Procurement fraud, bribery, and embezzlement lead to drug shortages, deteriorated facilities, and unaffordable care. For the poor, unable to pay bribes, being denied treatment becomes a demeaning and life-threatening reality. Such systemic failures perpetuate cycles of poverty and indignity.

Police extortion, arbitrary arrests, and abuse of office compound indignity. Instead of providing protection, corrupt practices transform law enforcement into a source of oppression.

Electoral malpractice strips citizens of meaningful participation, fosters violence, and undermines their autonomy and dignity.

In all these instances, corruption robs individuals of autonomy, self-worth, and security, which constitutes the very essence of dignity.

International law and human rights

The devastating effects of grand corruption mirror acts outlined under the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court: widespread, systematic acts that deprive populations of fundamental rights. Although corruption is not explicitly listed as a crime against humanity, its consequences can be similarly destructive.

The 2025 African Anti-Corruption Day theme, Promoting Human Dignity in the Fight Against Corruption, underscores this recognition. Kenya's Constitution (Article 28) enshrines human dignity, aligning with global frameworks such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). Yet grand corruption systematically undermines the rights to health, education, political participation, and access to justice.

Lessons from global models

Countries such as Singapore, Denmark, and Botswana show that dignity-centered governance is achievable. Their experiences demonstrate that political will, strong institutions, civic responsibility, and a culture of accountability can transform national integrity landscapes. These examples remind Kenya that corruption is not inevitable, nor is moral decay irreversible.

Indeed, Kenya itself has begun taking important steps toward strengthening transparency and accountability. The nationwide roll-out of the e-Government Procurement (e-GP) system, officially launched on April 7, 2025, with a compliance deadline of July 1, 2025, is replacing manual tendering with real-time, traceable digital processes, significantly reducing opportunities for procurement fraud. As of August 2025, 1,285 procuring entities and 7,637 suppliers had registered on e-GP, with over 2,000 procurement officers trained.

Additionally, EACC, together with the Kenya Leadership Integrity Forum (KLIF), has, early this year, launched the Kenya Integrity Plan (KIP) 2023–2028, a comprehensive roadmap that advances prevention, enforcement, oversight, and civic engagement. These emerging reforms signal Kenya's growing commitment to integrity-based governance and offer a foundation on which deeper systemic progress can be built.

Pathways for Kenyan reform

The fight against corruption must be both institutional and cultural. Laws alone cannot solve the problem. Citizens must reject graft as a societal norm, and leaders must embody the integrity they demand of others.

Political dynamics in Kenya often allow powerful individuals and organizations to manipulate institutions and evade scrutiny, highlighting the need for deeper reforms. Domestic legislation must be strengthened, and international advocacy is needed to recognize grand corruption as a human rights violation under universal jurisdiction.

Kenya's journey toward integrity will not be easy, but it is not impossible. The Constitution provides a strong foundation, and the resilience of its people remains a source of hope. Anchoring anti-corruption efforts in dignity and human rights offers a more holistic and humane approach, one that restores trust and rebuilds the moral core of governance.

Institutions must enforce integrity, government bodies must lead by example, and citizens must reject graft in all forms. Together, we can restore trust, protect human dignity, and build a Kenya free from corruption.

As Nelson Mandela once said, "A saint is a sinner who keeps on trying." Kenya must keep trying, reforming, resisting, and rebuilding, until corruption no longer defines its institutions and every Kenyan can live with the dignity they deserve.

Writer is an academic and expert in Financial Management, Accounting, and Corporate Governance, and serves as Vice Chair of EACC



“Denying corrupt individuals the fruits of their illicit activities is a powerful deterrent.”

CEO, Abdi A. Mohamud

11th Edition



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& strong
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