

REMARKS BY THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE GACC ON THE COMMEMORATION OF THE 2025 AFRICAN UNION ANTI-CORRUPTION DAY

The African Union Anti-Corruption Day (AUACD), observed every July 11, was established to promote the implementation of the African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption. It serves as a platform to raise awareness, assess progress, and renew the continent's commitment to transparency and accountability.

The 2025 African Union Anti-Corruption Day renews the call for bold, inclusive, and united action to tackle the persistent scourge of corruption in Africa. Corruption continues to undermine our development, deepen inequality, and erode public trust in institutions. In Ghana, the cost is undeniable. The 2023 Auditor-General's Report revealed that the country lost over GH¢11 billion to financial irregularities, resources that could have transformed education, healthcare, and job opportunities for its citizens.

But it is our young people who often bear the harshest consequences. Corruption disrupts access to quality education, reduces job prospects, limits opportunities, and undermines trust in public systems. These realities make it more challenging for young people to envision a future built on fairness and integrity. And yet, it is these same young people who hold the power to change the story.

The GACC recognises that empowering youth to stand against corruption is a critical step toward building a fairer, more inclusive Ghana where development benefits all, not just a few. In line with this, the Ghana Anti-Corruption Coalition (GACC), and our partners have committed to the implementation of a nationwide youth-targeted anti-corruption campaign. In 2024 for instance, the GACC, through its Local Accountability Networks (LANets), empowered 27,667 young people, including first-time voters, across 33 districts in 14 regions, with the knowledge and skills to identify and resist election-related corruption.

This year, the GACC, in alignment with the African Union's 2025 theme: **"Justice for Africans and People of African Descent Through Reparations,"** is expanding its youth-focused anti-corruption efforts to 40 districts across 16 regions. This year's initiative, supported by the Hewlett Foundation, will raise awareness about corruption, promote civic engagement and encourage whistleblowing. We will leverage physical and digital engagement platforms such as schools, religious, social, community and media platforms to motivate a new generation of youth to lead with integrity and demand accountability from duty bearers and to report corruption.

It is our collective responsibility to empower our youth to be the generation that is fully committed to the fight against corruption. To all actors, parents, teachers, community leaders, religious institutions, media, public agencies, and civil society, we urge you to stand behind the youth. Let us support and protect them as they take a stand for transparency and justice.



Finally, I call on the youth of Ghana to rise to the occasion by taking a personal pledge against corruption by committing to the 3Rs of fighting Corruption - Resist, Reject, and Report corruption!

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