

corruption  
watch



# Active Citizens Guide 2024

National elections and beyond



## INTRODUCTION

This Corruption Watch (CW) guide aims to empower individuals and organisations in South Africa to actively participate in promoting transparency and accountability and combating corruption during the 2024 electoral cycle and beyond.

The 2024 elections are an opportunity for people to change the political landscape by electing new leaders of integrity who are accountable to the public whom they serve. But this is not where our duty as active citizens ends - we must continue to demand accountability from the new administration.

Furthermore, to ensure this accountability, it is essential to cut through the noise and disinformation to make informed choices. This document highlights the importance for voters to consider the anti-corruption agendas of parties and their leaders, and to critically scrutinise their promises and guarantees.

## CORRUPTION OVERVIEW

CW defines corruption as: "The abuse of entrusted power or resources, by anyone, for private gain."

Corruption perpetrated by [high-profile individuals](#) in positions of power has contributed to an erosion of public confidence in our leaders across all sectors.

Through fraud, nepotism and employment irregularities, bribery and extortion, abuse and misuse of power or resources, and secrecy in political party funding, to name a few, there is a real possibility for corrupt politicians to have a serious impact on the outcome of the 2024 elections.

## UNDERSTANDING ANTI-CORRUPTION COMMITMENTS

Political leaders have pledged an array of [anti-corruption commitments](#) to the South African public over the years, promising to combat bribery, eradicate corruption, conduct lifestyle audits, and promote transparency and accountability in governance. This election, we must hold candidates and parties accountable for their promises, and call for transparency in electoral processes.

### KEY TIPS/SECTORS/AREAS FOR TRACKING OR MONITORING CORRUPTION PROMISES

- **Research and analysis**

At national government level, the ruling ANC party identifies a renewed commitment to "fight against corruption." A comparison between the promises made in the [2019 manifesto](#) and the [2024 manifesto](#) will be helpful in holding the party accountable.

Similarly, on a provincial level voters could track delivery on the official opposition DA's [anti-corruption commitments](#). That party currently runs two metropolitan, three district, and 12 local municipalities.

The publicly available manifestos of political parties can be found on their own or other websites, for instance the [People's Assembly](#) or news sites such as [News24](#).

- **Engagement with civil society organisations**

There are opportunities to collaborate with reputable civil society organisations working on transparency and accountability, and to leverage their expertise and resources for monitoring purposes. The joint goal is to hold the new leaders to higher levels of ethical behaviour, service delivery and accountability, thus driving improvement of systems and governance in the country.

The vital issue of **political party funding** is a good starting point. [My Vote Counts](#) provides a useful tool to track political party donations in South Africa, to determine which funders may have undue influence on political agendas.

On **procurement** of goods and services through the tender system, a major corruption source, the [Procurement Reform Working Group](#) has expressed its concern about gaps in the current Public Procurement Bill. This will be addressed by the new parliament.

- Another key area of focus is **support for whistle-blowers** and the improvement of the environment for blowing the whistle. CW and other organisations have conducted research and made inputs on whistle-blower reform discussions, in response to a discussion paper released by the Department of Justice and Correctional Services on proposed improvements to the [whistle-blower regime](#).

- **Advocacy and Public Awareness**

Several sectors are highlighted as key areas for improvement for the new leaders.

- o **Corruption in land sector:** While some political parties do discuss land in their manifestos, they do not address the intersection between land and corruption. Corruption Watch has evidence of [corruption in the land sector](#) which has led to human rights violations and has seriously impacted the lives of farm workers and their access to amenities. It is important for voters to understand this critical issue.

- o CW has received reports of corruption and collaborated with civil society partners in other sectors such as [state capture, policing, mining, and private sector corruption](#).

- **Recommendations and Actions for Active Citizens**

There are several ways in which the public can effectively monitor political parties and their commitment to anti-corruption measures:

- o Participate in public forums, campaign events and debates where candidates present their policies.

- o Pose direct questions to candidates about their anti-corruption strategies.
- o Use online platforms to track/share information on candidates' anti-corruption stances.
- o Monitor social media for discussions and updates related to election promises under hashtags **#Elections2024**, **#ElectionIntegrity**; share experiences with hashtag **#CWElectionsExperiences**
- o Follow civil society organisations monitoring transparency and accountability of political parties and their actions.
- o Engage with journalists and media outlets to raise awareness about monitoring anti-corruption commitments.
- o Provide insights and data to support investigative reporting on candidates' integrity, by keeping detailed records of their statements, actions, and inconsistencies.
- o Sign up to be an election monitor ([IEC](#), [Defend our Democracy](#), [Ground Work Collective](#)).
- o Share insights with friends and families to encourage active participation in the electoral process and awareness of importance of anti-corruption measures.

### Conclusion and Call to Action

By actively monitoring and holding candidates and political parties accountable for their anti-corruption commitments, we contribute to strengthening democratic governance and fostering integrity in the 2024 South Africa elections and beyond.

### Resources and Contacts

- Links to relevant organisations, resources and reports on anti-corruption efforts and monitoring are referenced in this guide.
- [Corruption Watch](#): WhatsApp: +27 82 579 5220; [info@corruptionwatch.org.za](mailto:info@corruptionwatch.org.za)
- Social Media: [LinkedIn](#), [Facebook](#), [X](#): **#Elections2024**, **#ElectionIntegrity**, **#CWElectionsExperiences**
- CW tools: [Veza](#) and [Procurement Watch](#)



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