



# 2017 National Corruption Perception Survey Report

*Abridged Version*

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## **Statement of the Honourable Minister – Senator Edgar Hillary**

Swaziland continues to experience strong political will and commitment to strengthen the fight against corruption. His Majesty King Mswati III has consistently condemned and urged Swazis to refrain from corrupt practices for the country to attain sustained economic development. After His Majesty pronounced zero tolerance for corruption in 2012, the Government responded to the call by making corruption a stand-alone key pillar in the 2013-2018 Government Programme of Action. Additional resources were also provided towards combating the scourge. In 2016, when The Head of State opened the 4<sup>th</sup> session of the 10<sup>th</sup> Parliament, He pronounced the establishment of a Specialised Commercial Court that is aimed at fighting commercial crimes and corruption. This Survey is another way that demonstrates the Government of Swaziland's commitment to the course of countering the undesirable spread of corruption in the country, by giving the nation an opportunity to express its perception on corruption in the country, and get its buy-in on initiatives and strategies aimed at eliminating this scourge, going forward.

This National Corruption Perception Survey 2017 is the second, after a baseline survey conducted in 2010. Attempts were made to ensure that its findings are comparable to those of the former (2010 Survey), while ensuring that it is consistent with national and international standards. As a national survey, it covered all four regions of the country, both urban and rural areas. The data collection took place from January to March 2017.

As we release these major findings from the overall perception survey report, it is necessary to reiterate His Majesty's call for a multi-sector approach to fighting corruption. Swazis have spoken that they also have a responsibility to fight corruption. Therefore, the nation is urged to continue supporting the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) and other law enforcement institutions to fight corruption. These results will also assist His Majesty's Government to continue strengthening efforts to fight this scourge.

I take this opportunity to acknowledge the ACC for the effort they put in fighting corruption in the country and for spearheading this survey; and also acknowledge and thank the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), for immensely contributing to the funding of this Survey; the Central Statistics Office (CSO) for providing technical assistance and ensuring adherence to quality standards; and the Consultancy Firm Three Sixty Degrees Business Solutions (360 DBS) for successfully undertaking this mammoth task amid the challenges experienced; the Steering

Committee for their invaluable input and finally, and most importantly this project would not have been possible without the participation of the people of Swaziland (herein referred to as respondents) who spared their valuable time to actively participate in this project. The integrity of their responses is lauded.

Therefore, I have the pleasure to release the results of the 2017 National Corruption Perception Survey. I also urge all stakeholders to consider the national results and assist the Government of Swaziland by crafting and implementing strategies to prevent corruption within their sectors whose impact will be the realisation of the country's Vision 2022.

## Executive Summary

This is Swaziland's second National Corruption Perception Survey, following the 2010 Report. The Survey sought to establish the overall perception of the Swazi Nation on the state of corruption in the country. The anticipated benefit of the Survey is to inform both current and future national strategies on anti-corruption activities in the country, including policy reviews and operational updates and priorities.

Data was collected from sampled households, Focus Group Discussions, involving participants from various sectors of the economy as well as key informants.

The findings centred around the following broad areas: (i) Knowledge and Understanding of Corruption, (ii) Tolerance Levels of Corruption, (iii) Reporting and Communication, and (iv) Corruption Consequences. The findings of the Survey reflect that the nation perceives that there is still a high level of corruption in the country, which manifests itself in various forms in different sectors.

The Report carries comparison between the 2010 and 2017 Survey results with emphasis on the deliverables under the Swaziland Development Index (SDI) on corruption perceptions and tolerance levels. The findings also show a slight decrease in corruption perceptions while corruption tolerance levels have significantly risen.

Based on the findings, recommendations are made by the Report including; calling upon the nation to prevent and collectively fight corruption; repositioning the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC); improving the legal and policy framework on corruption; and calling for expediency in trying and prosecuting corruption cases, inter alia.

## 1.0 Introduction

The National Corruption Perception Survey 2017, is one of the deliverables under the Swaziland Development Index (SDI), which seeks to measure whether there has been: **a)** Reduction in corruption perception; and, **b)** Decrease in corruption tolerance levels, in the country.

Other **Key Objectives** of the Survey are to:

- Determine the citizen's perception and conceptualisation of corruption,
- Identify sectors within the economy that are vulnerable to corruption and measure the effectiveness of the anti-corruption strategy,
- Identify and determine the forms of corruption that are prevalent,
- Establish the citizen's understanding of the causes of corruption, and
- Conduct a comparative analysis with the results in the 2010 Corruption Perception Survey Report.

The Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs (MOJCA) through the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) engaged the services of an independent consultancy firm, Three Sixty Degrees Business Solutions (360 DBS) to undertake the second National Corruption Perception Survey for 2017. This Survey is part of the implementation of His Majesty's Government Programme of Action 2013-2018.

The Central Statistics Office (CSO) provided technical support on adherence to standards and quality assurance of the survey and results. The survey was co-funded by the Government of Swaziland and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

This Abridged Report, contains the methodology, key findings, including major comparisons of 2017 findings with the 2010 Survey Report and recommendations of the 2017 National Corruption Perception Survey.

## 2.0 Methodology

The sample for the National Corruption Perception Survey 2017 was designed to provide estimates for several indicators on the perception of corruption, identification of corrupt sectors at national and regional levels for urban and rural areas, and for all four Regions: Hhohho, Manzini, Shiselweni and Lubombo, in the country. A total of 268 Enumeration Areas (EA) and 4,020 households were selected for the Survey. These sample clusters had previously been selected for the Integrated Labour Force Survey (ILFS) 2016, and the listing of households from that survey for each sample EA was used for selecting the National Corruption Perception Survey households at the second sampling stage.

The urban and rural areas within each region were identified as the main sampling strata and the sample was selected in two (2) stages. Within each stratum, a specified number of census EAs were selected systematically using probability proportional to size. Using the ILFS listing of households for each sample EA, a systematic sample of 15 households was drawn in each sample enumeration area. The sample was stratified by region, urban and rural areas, and is not self-weighting and for reporting all Survey results, sample weights are used. Members of each household, 18 years and above, were eligible to be respondents in this Survey but only one eligible member was selected to respond in each household. In households which had more than one eligible respondent the Kirsch Grid method was used to randomly select a member to be the respondent.

Two major sets of data collection tools (questionnaires) were designed, and used for this Survey – one for the household field surveys, and another for the focus group discussions (FGDs) and key informants. Respondents, in the case of the household data collection were interviewed in the comfort of their homes, and confidentiality was assured, thus maximizing the response rate, accuracy of the information, as well as willingness to participate in the Survey.

Out of the 4,020 sampled households, 3,090 interviews were completed while 930 were not completed due to the following: -

- 651 eligible respondents were not found at home after a maximum of three (3) return visits;
- 166 eligible respondents refused to participate in the Survey; and
- 113 questionnaires were not fully completed.

Of the completed questionnaires, 33.8% were from the Manzini Region, 32.9% from the Hhohho Region, 17.2% from the Lubombo Region, and 16.2% from the Shiselweni Region. Seventy-five (75%), of the respondents were from rural areas, while 25%, were from the urban areas of the country.

## 3.0 Key Findings

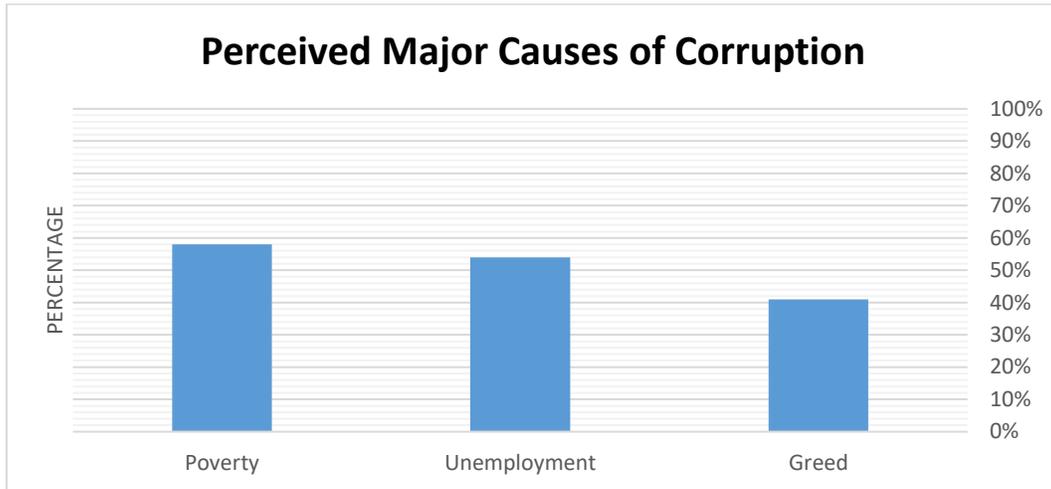
The findings of the Survey are presented in the following categories in this report:

### 1.1. Knowledge and Understanding of Corruption

**1.1.1. Finding 1: Corruption is perceived to be a major issue/problem in the country:** According to the survey, 93% of the respondents see corruption as a major issue of concern.

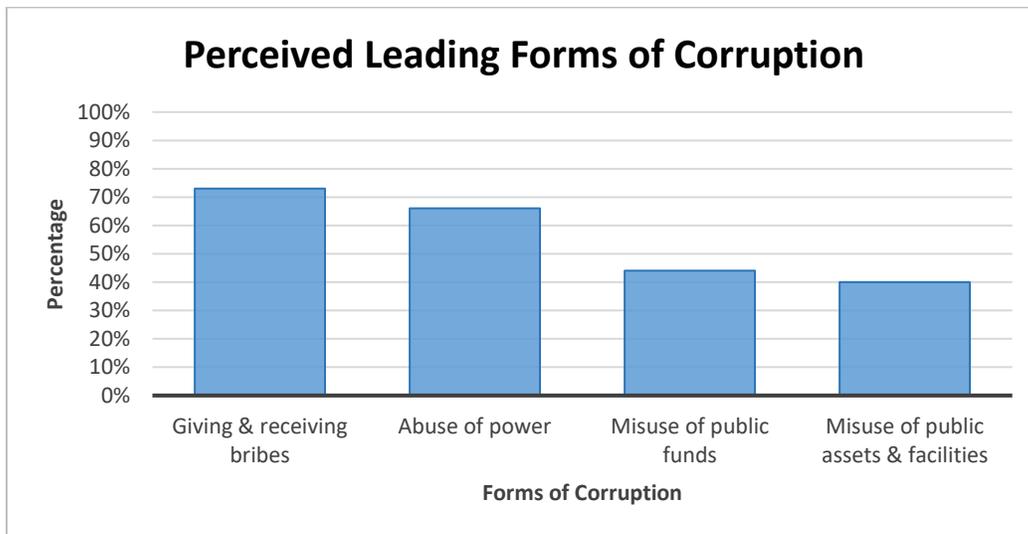
**1.1.2. Finding 2: The perceived major causes of corruption:** According to the results as shown in Figure 1, 58% of respondents indicated poverty as major cause of corruption followed by unemployment (54%) and greed (41%).

Figure 1: Perceived Major Causes of Corruption



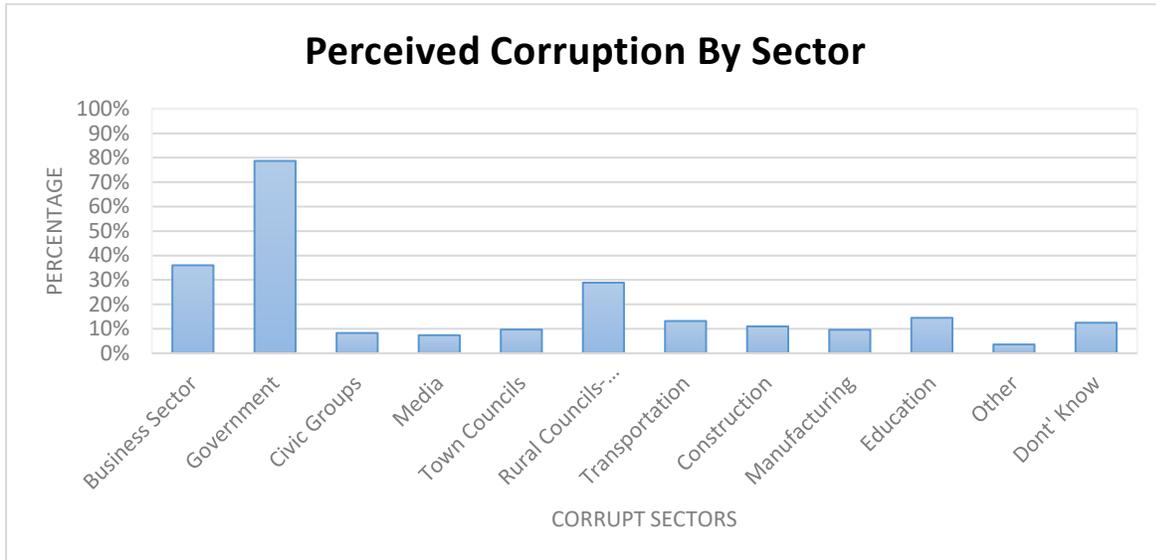
**1.1.3. Finding 3: Perceived Leading forms of corruption:** The results showed that giving and receiving bribes (73%), abuse of power (66%), misuse of public funds (44%) and misuse of public assets and facilities (40%) are perceived leading forms of corruption.

Figure 2: Perceived Leading Forms of Corruption



**1.1.4. Finding 4: Perception of corruption in the various sectors:** According to the results as depicted in *figure 3*, 79% of respondents perceived government as a corrupt sector while 36% perceived business sector as a corrupt sector and 29% perceived the Rural Councils - *Imiphakatsi* as a corrupt sector.

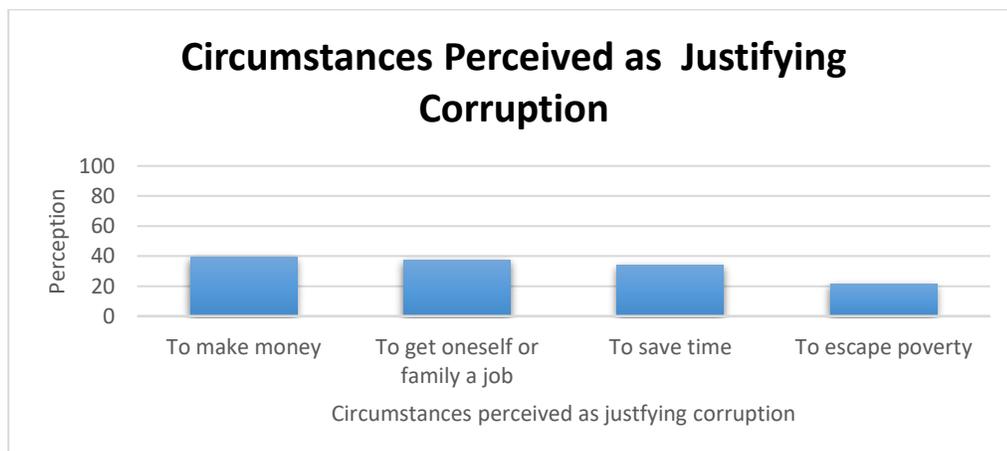
*Figure 3: Perceived corruption by sector*



## 1.2. Tolerance Levels for Corruption

**1.2.1. Finding 6: Circumstances perceived as justifying corruption -** The survey results as depicted in *Figure 4* showed that 49% of the respondents perceive corruption to be beneficial in certain circumstances.

*Figure 4: Circumstances perceived as justifying corruption*



**1.2.2. Finding 7: Responsibility to fight corruption** - According to the survey results, respondents believed that the following are responsible for fighting corruption: -

- Everyone – 72%
- Anti-Corruption Commission – 26%
- The public sector – 15%
- Police – 13%

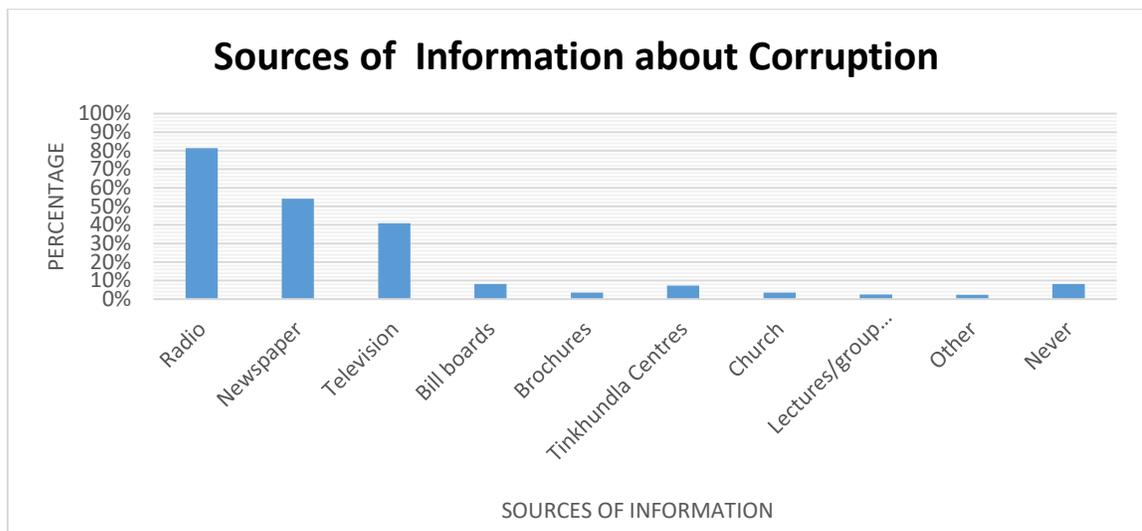
### 1.3 Reporting and Communication

**1.2.3. Finding 8: Reporting** - The results showed that respondents had the following reasons for not reporting corrupt practices: -

- Minding own business – 24%
- Did not know there was such a Commission (ACC) – 25%
- Did not know where the ACC was located – 19%
- Fearing victimization – 14%

**1.2.4. Finding 9: Communication** - According to the results, 81.4% of the respondents get information on corruption through the radio while 54.2% and 41% get such information from the newspapers and television, respectively.

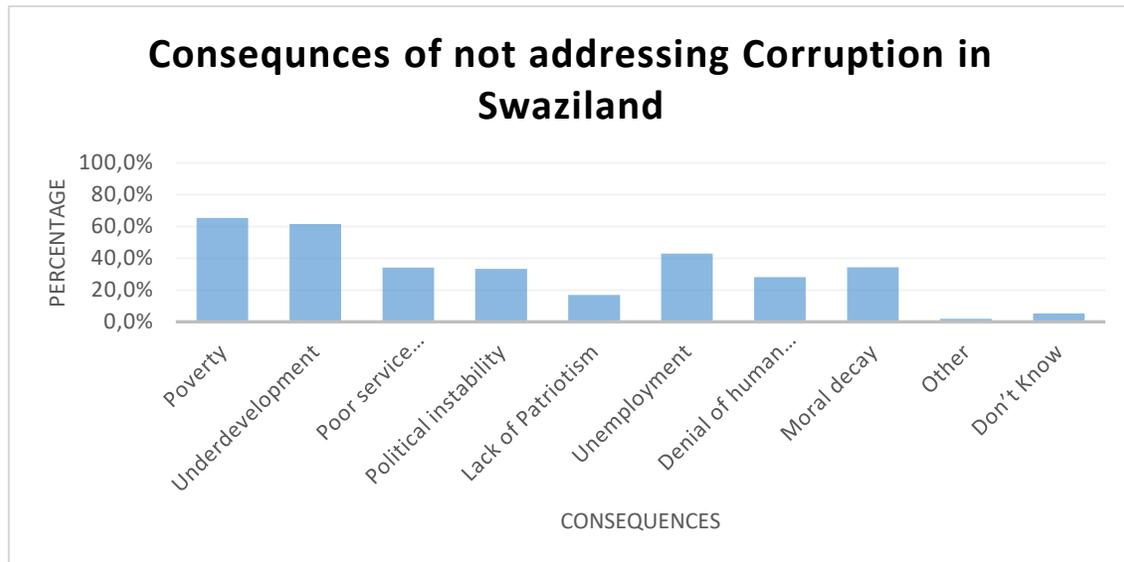
*Figure 5: Institutions Involved in Fighting corruption*



### 1.4 Corruption Consequences

**1.2.5. Finding 9: Consequences of not fighting corruption in Swaziland** - According to the results as shown in Figure 6, allowing corruption to thrive would lead to poverty (65.3%), underdevelopment (61.6%) and Unemployment (42.9%).

Figure 6: Consequences of not addressing corruption



**1.2.6. Finding 10: Actions to reduce corruption in the country** - According to the results, the following are leading actions that could be undertaken to counter or reduce corruption in the country:

- Creation of more jobs – 46.9%
- Speedy trial of corruption cases – 42.6%
- Conducting anti-corruption campaigns – 35.1%
- All sectors to implement anti-corruption strategies – 31.5%

## 4.0 Comparison between the 2010 and the 2017 Surveys Report

According to the SDI, Swaziland measures the national corruption perception and corruption tolerance levels. Comparison is as follows:

**2.1 Corruption perception levels** – According to the 2017 survey, 93% of the respondents perceived corruption to be a major issue in the country. This is a 1% decrease from the 2010 survey, wherein 94% of the respondents were also of the view that corruption was a major concern. The illustration below shows the slight decrease.

**Table: 1: Overall Perception**

Is corruption a major issue in Swaziland?	2010 (%)	2017 (%)
<b>Yes</b>	94	93
<b>No</b>	3.1	1
<b>Don't know</b>	1.2	6

2.2 **Tolerance for corruption** – According to the 2017 survey findings, 39.3% of the respondents were of the view that they feel is right/justified to practice corruption in order “to make money” which had since increased from 10.8% from the 2010 survey. The survey results further revealed that 37.9% of the respondents felt that it is right to practice corruption in order “to get oneself, or family, a job” which was an increase from 27.1% recorded in the 2010 survey. Moreover, the results also showed that 33.9% of the respondents were of the view that, it is right/justified to practice corruption in order “to save time” has also increased from 24.1% which was recorded in the 2010 survey. The following table is an illustration of the responses for the two surveys, further showing that the tolerance for corruption has increased: -

**Table: 2: Circumstances for Justifying Corruption**

What are the circumstances justifying corruption?	2010 (%)	2017(%)
To make money	10.8	39.3
To get oneself, or family, a job	27.1	37.4
To save time	24.1	33.9

## 5.0 Recommendations

5.1 **A nation united against corruption** – Results of the Survey show that all assessed sectors are perceived to be corrupt to some degree. The results also show that a majority of the respondents indicated that fighting corruption is the responsibility of everyone, calling for a united voice against corruption to bring to an end to systemic issues. Drawing from His Majesty King Mswati III’s call for the implementation of a multi-sector approach to fighting corruption and his pronouncement of zero tolerance for corruption, the adoption and implementation of a national agenda on corruption is critical. A national “*Indaba*” (Summit) is proposed for national engagement on “corruption” for a common *siSwati* definition and a discussion on other pertinent issues to curb the impact of such practices on sustainable development. The engagement would further allow for increased understanding of the risks associated with corruption and the impact on basic service delivery. This could contribute to a significant decrease in tolerance for malpractices and perception levels.

5.2 **Create a conducive legal and policy framework** – The findings of this Survey showed that among the actions to be taken to reduce corruption in the country, there is need for an enabling environment through development and amendment of relevant legislation. This calls for the Government of Swaziland to put in place a National Anti-Corruption Policy that will enable the review and implementation of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy that was put in place in 2007. Further devolution of the strategy will facilitate the amendment of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 2006, and

development of the Witness Protection and Whistleblower legislations, given fear of victimization when reporting malpractice, and further provide for sectoral prevention of corruption. The development of an Asset Forfeiture Framework to enable asset recovery and render corruption a non-paying crime, was also suggested.

- 5.3 Reposition the Anti-Corruption Commission** – Respondent’s submissions pointed to the need for a more autonomous ACC, shielded from any possible counter-productive and or undue political interference. Various suggestions ranging from the ACC being a Public Enterprise Unit, placed under the Prime Minister’s Office (PMO) and administered as the Royal Swaziland Police Services (RSPS), enjoying direct access to the His Majesty the King.
- 5.4 Expedite trying and prosecution of corruption cases** – Effective law enforcement to ensure corrupt practices are punishable was suggested by respondents. This is to break the cycle of impunity, key in mitigating the impact of corruption. Such an undertaking with strengthen the ACC and its business. Further suggestions made were on a strengthened judicial system through a commercial court to expedite the conclusion of corruption and commercial cases and building the necessary capacities for successful prosecutions.
- 5.5 Increase knowledge and referral system** – advocacy and improved communication on anti-corruption and on the work of the ACC is of importance. The Survey findings indicate the need for national anti-corruption campaigns to educate the citizens on the consequences of corruption, to change mindsets and encourage reporting. This could be done through national educational campaigns through radio and print media. The Ministry of Education and Training (MOET) was also encouraged to scale-up the introduction of anti-corruption and ethics in the school curriculum to inculcate the zero-tolerance culture for corruption.
- 5.6 Improved service delivery** – The government uses public resources to facilitate receipt of services by the general population. The Survey results show that respondents perceived some circumstances as justifying corruption, amongst these was, ‘saving time’ and ‘getting a job’. Prudent public procurement and management in service delivery is of significance to prevent corruption, combined with training on ethical practices and punitive measures for offenders.