

9<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER



**STOP**  
**CORRUPTION**  
INTERNATIONAL ANTI-CORRUPTION DAY

9 December 2021

## International Anti-Corruption Day 2021 - Your Right, Your Role: Say No to Corruption

Fighting corruption is a global concern, which has contributed significantly to instability and inequality. The 9<sup>th</sup> of December marks International Anti-Corruption Day, annually commemorated in recognition of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, which was signed in Mexico in 2003.

This year, the custodian of ethics in the Republic of South Africa, the Public Service Commission, is observing International Anti-Corruption Day 2021 under the theme: **Your Right, Your Role: Say No to Corruption**. The global theme shared by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), highlights the importance of “the rights and responsibilities of everyone — including States, Government officials, civil servants, law enforcement officers, media representatives, the private sector, civil society, academia, the public, and youth — in tackling corruption.”<sup>[1]</sup>

The **National Business Initiative’s (NBI)** focus on building trust and accountability through our Ethical Leadership and Anti-Corruption Programme (ELAC) endorses this theme and supports the sentiments, which will be addressed directly in a new NBI initiative: **The Accountability Talks Series**. These talks are intended to spark accountability in the fight against corruption in the Private Sector. This initiative is grounded in the NBI’s ELAC programme, situated within the Transformation Unit. The key objective of the **Accountability Talks Series** are to unearth authentic stories and case studies of challenging corruption, dissect unethical behaviours, and understand how ethics and governance can shape and narrate industry norms. The NBI intends to launch **The Accountability Talks Series** in

the first quarter of 2022 and will be hosted and co-facilitated by our CEO, Joanne Yawitch and the CEO of [ProtectedBy.AI \(Africa\)](#), Macfarlane Moleli.

The core value communicated this International Anti-Corruption Day, is the power of making choices, the right choices, and encouraging people around the globe to meet this challenge. The Foundation for Critical Thinking explains this imperative as: "Moral principles do not apply themselves; they require a thinking mind to assess facts and interpret situations. Moral agents inevitably bring their perspectives into play in making moral judgments and this, together with the natural tendency of the human mind to self-deception when its interests are involved, is the fundamental impediment to the right use of ethical principles."<sup>[2]</sup>

Ethical decisions are centered around the critical thinking of "self" and supported by how the "self" is socialised. Thus, rights and responsibilities need to be given back to civil society, to communities, the people, in order to reflect in their daily choices. This is also exemplified in how a lack of morals and value-driven leadership contributes to the destruction of ethical organisational cultures. The theme this International Anti-Corruption Day is a brilliant reminder of how important the variable of "self" is when analysing the total equation that adds up to corruption. In short, wrongdoing is based on a single decision, at a point in time, that may have the potential to cause great harm.

The NBI supports responsible business, and our programme activities are critical in strengthening the private sector and beyond. The NBI calls on our members, partners and stakeholders this International Anti-Corruption Day, to ask the difficult questions of both ourselves and our organisations. Together, we can end corruption in the private sector.

**For more information about the NBI's Ethical Leadership and Anti-Corruption Programme, please contact Thuthula Ndunge ([ThuthulaN@nbi.org.za](mailto:ThuthulaN@nbi.org.za))**

<sup>[1]</sup> Office of the integrity Commission. "Your right, your role to say no to corruption." *Now Grenada*, 6 December 2021: [https://www.nowgrenada.com/2021/12/your-right-your-role-say-no-to-corruption/?utm\\_source=rss&utm\\_medium=rss&utm\\_campaign=your-right-your-role-say-no-to-corruption](https://www.nowgrenada.com/2021/12/your-right-your-role-say-no-to-corruption/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=your-right-your-role-say-no-to-corruption)

<sup>[2]</sup> Richard Paul. 1988. "Ethics Without Indoctrination." The Foundation for Critical Thinking, 6 December 2021: <https://www.criticalthinking.org/pages/ethics-without-indoctrination/494>



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The National Business Initiative (NBI) is an independent and voluntary coalition of South African and multinational businesses launched in 1995 by the then President, Nelson Mandela.

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