CRITICAL ANALYSIS OF POLITICAL PARTIES MANIFESTO PROMISES – 2024
ANTI-CORRUPTION



IMANI
Center for Policy & Education

Outline

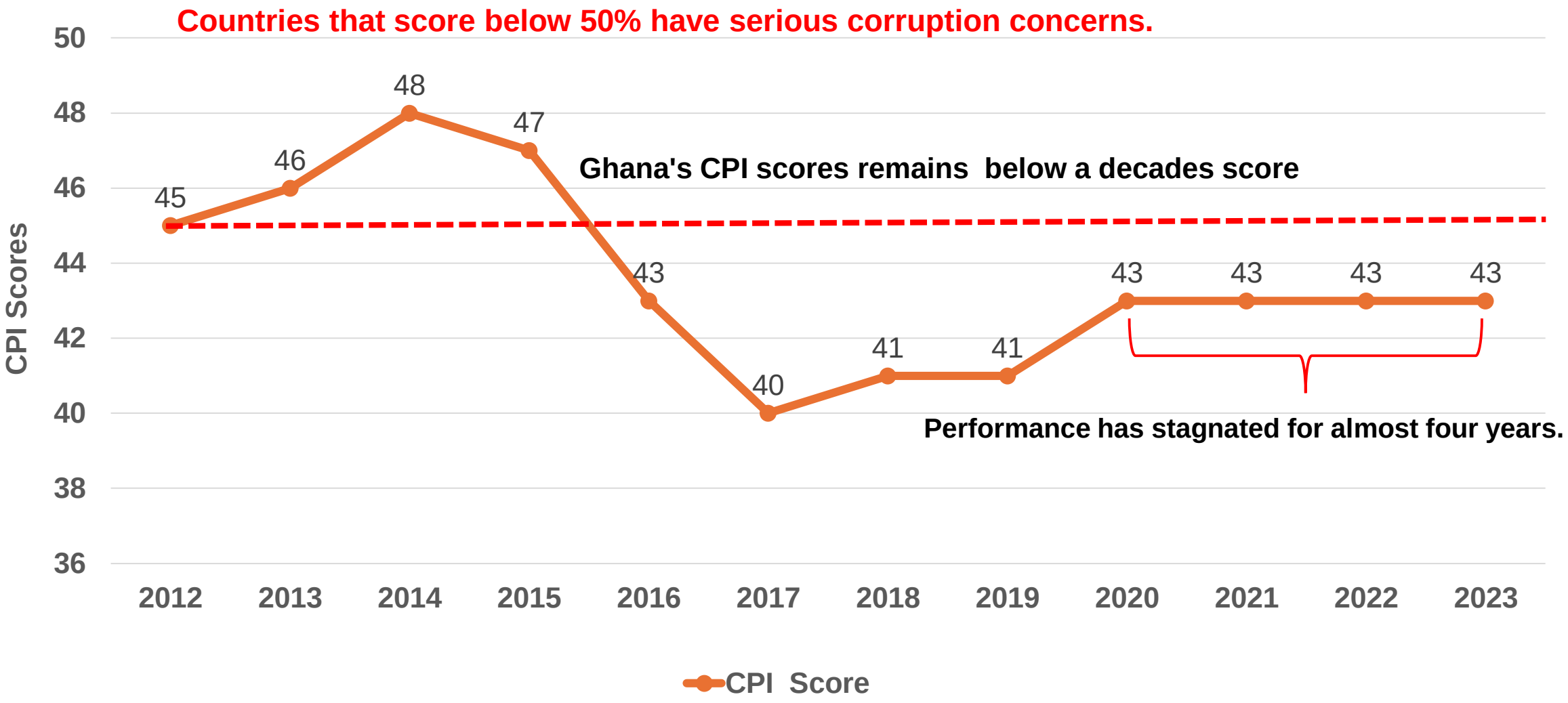
- Background – The State of Anti-Corruption Interventions
- Ghana's Performance on Global Indices on Corruption
- Key Sources of Corruption in Ghana
- Key Promises of the Political Parties – NPP, NDC & MoC
- Key Issues identified in the three Manifestoes
- What this mean for Development Partners?

Background – We have implemented a lot of anti-corruption reforms in the last decade, but we are seeing widespread corruption in varying forms.

- National Anti-Corruption Plan 2014
- Witness Protection Act, 2018 (Act 975)
- Criminal Offences (Amendment) Act, 2020 (Act1034)
- Office of the Special Prosecutor (Office of Special Prosecutor Act, 2017 (Act 959)
- Right to Information Act 2019 (Act 989)
- Moved some key government business online through Ghana.gov platform
- Public Financial Management Reforms
- Supreme Court in the case Occupy Ghana V Attorney General [2017] has affirmed that the exercise of disallowance and surcharge powers of the Auditor-General is mandatory

Most people think corruption is worsening despite the reforms. At least 33% of the population paid bribe in the last 12months.

Corruption Index Score over the last 11 years (2012-2023)

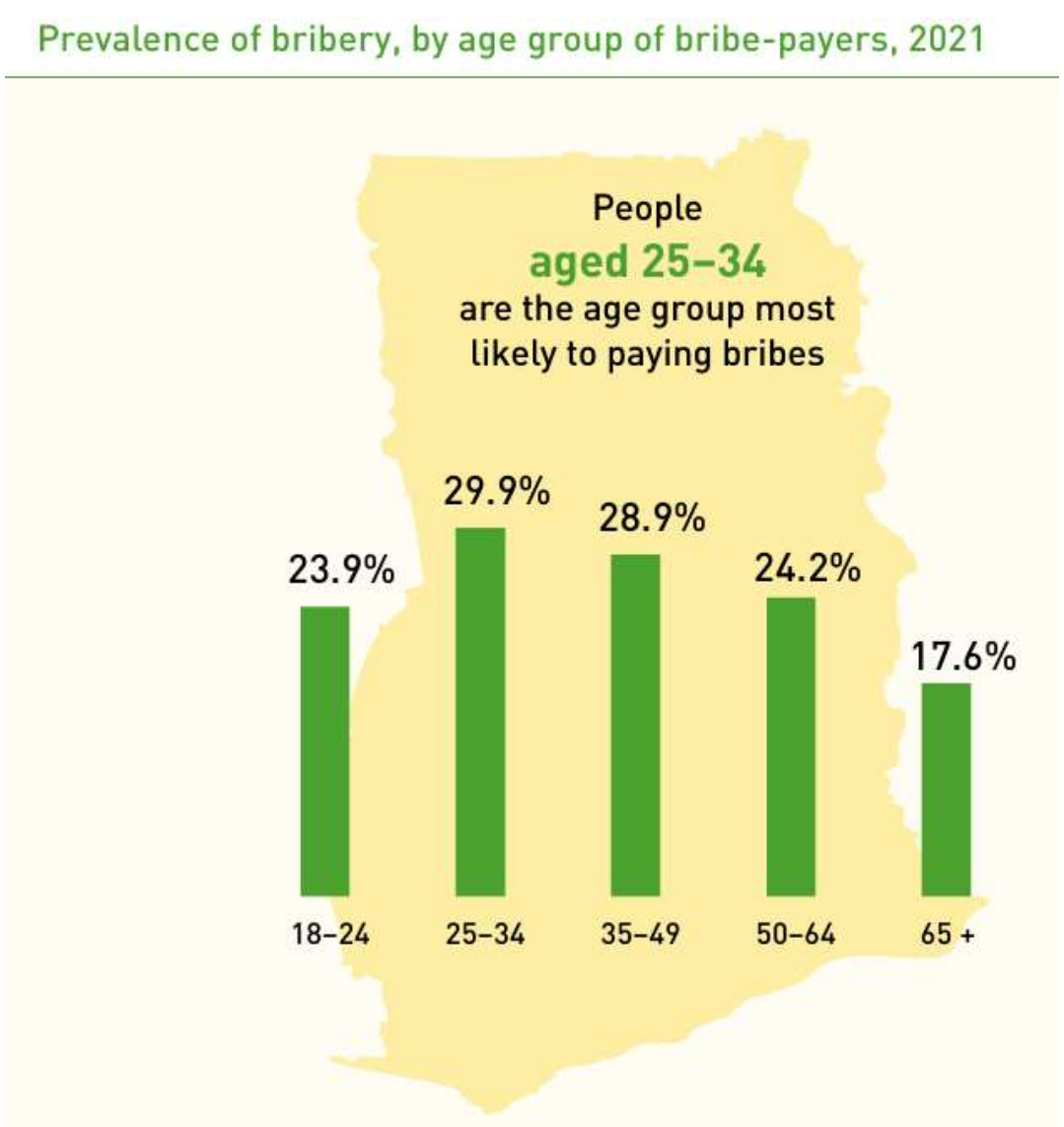


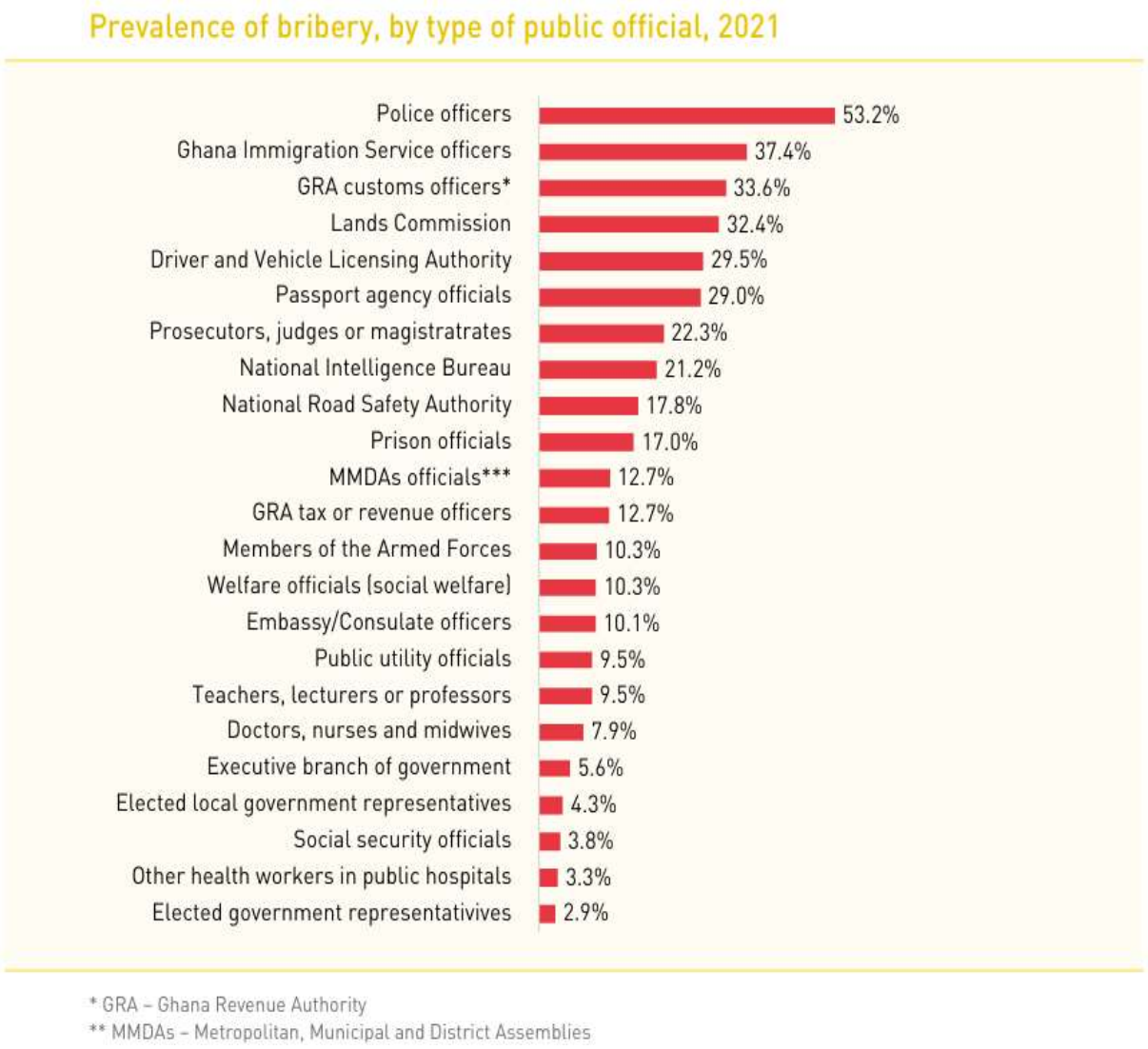
Transparency International, 2024

Main Channels of Corruption in Ghana

- Accessing Public Services
- Public Procurement
- Private Sector and Government Engagements
- State Capture through Private Sector

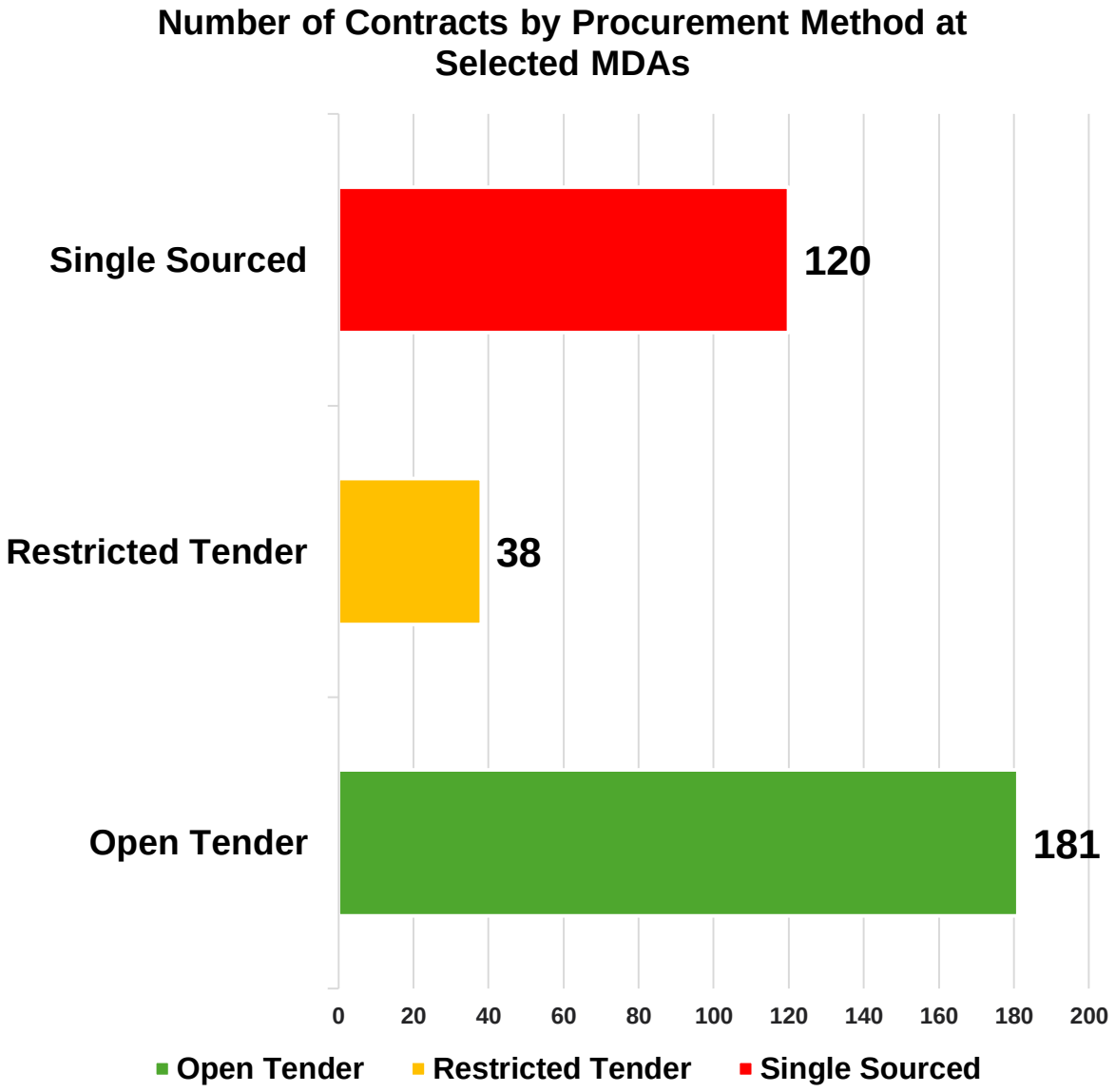
Young people and working adults are likely to pay bribes, and security service and regulatory institution have a high bribe taking tendency.

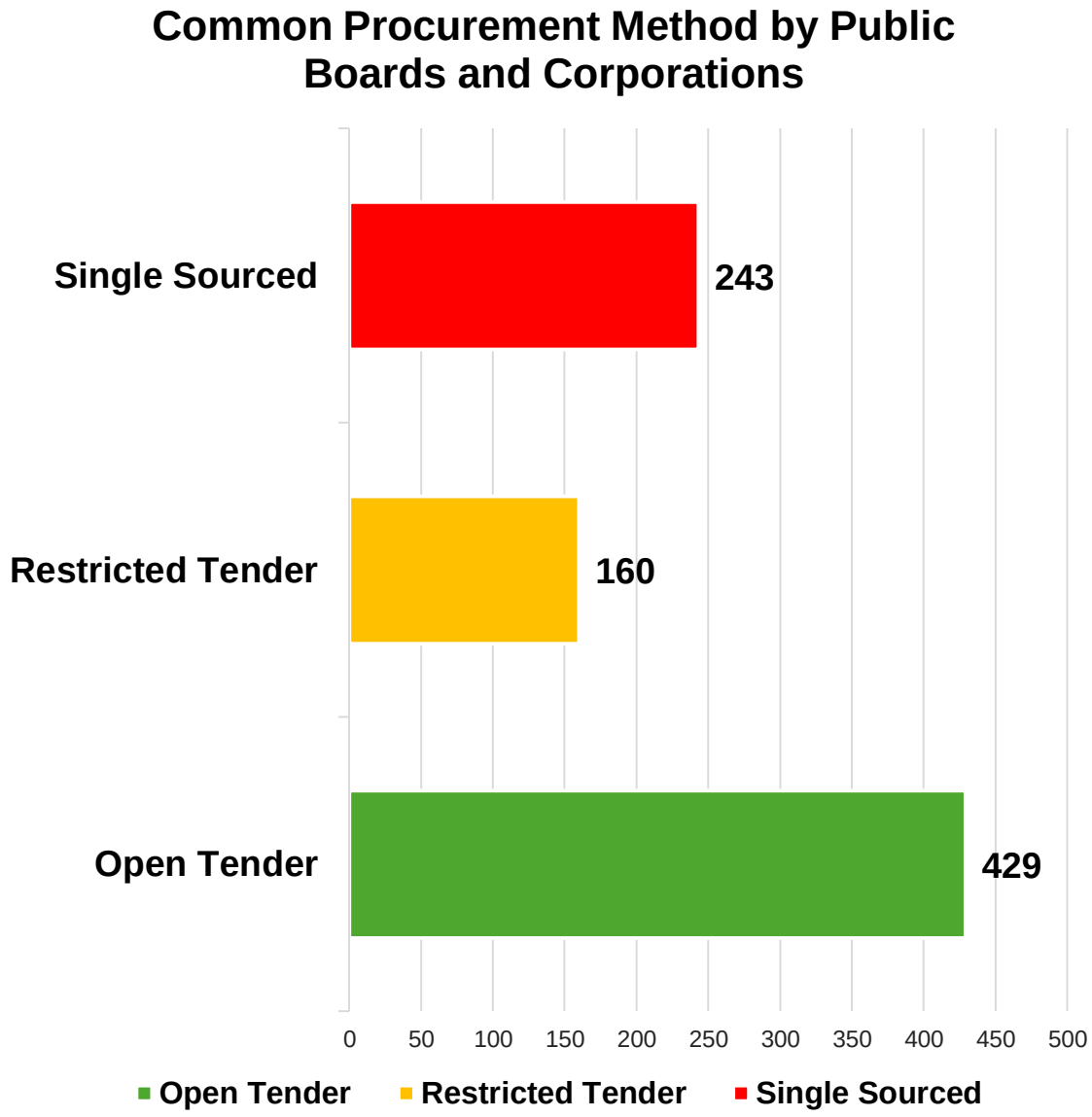




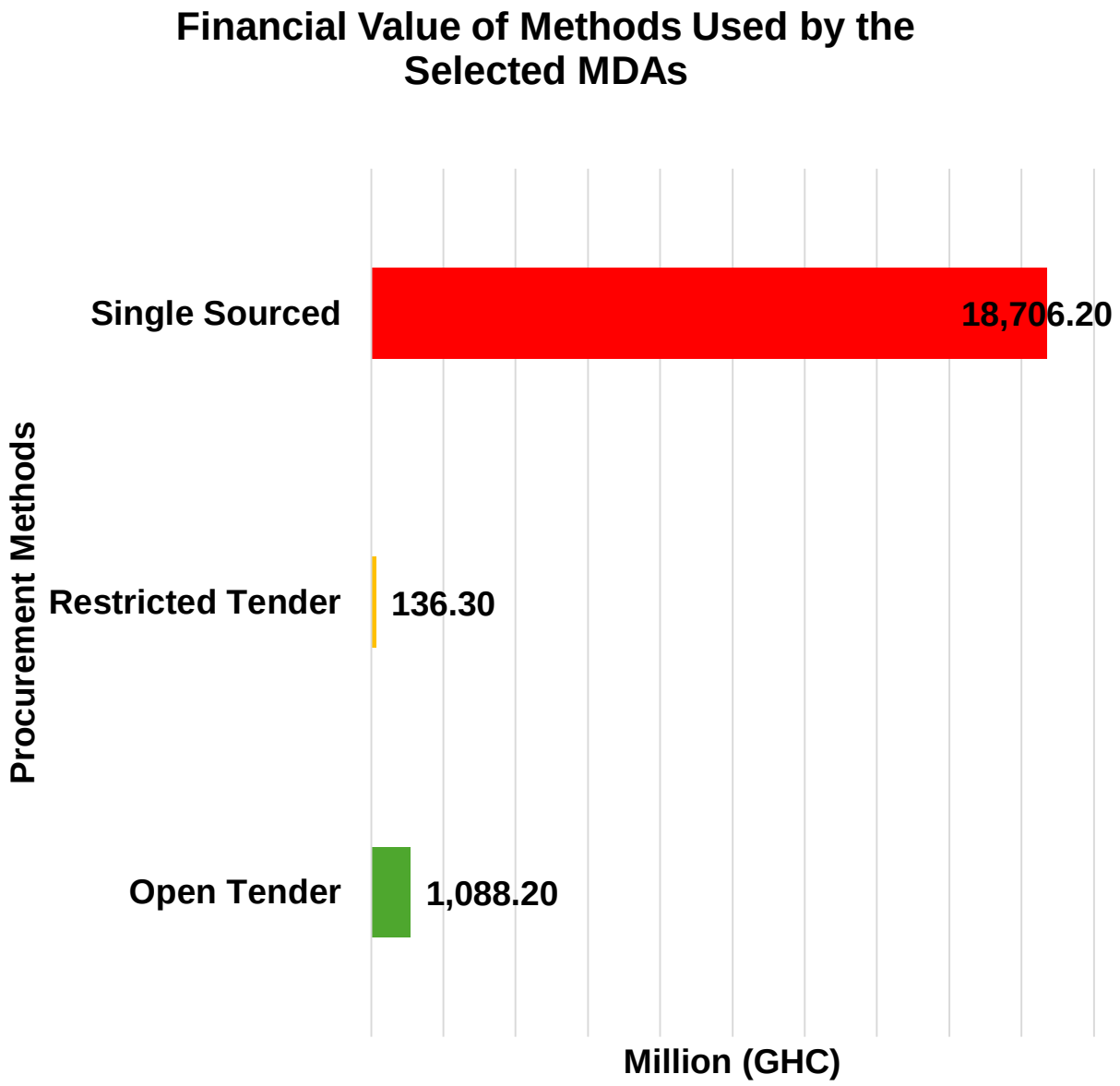
Ghana Statistical Service, 2021

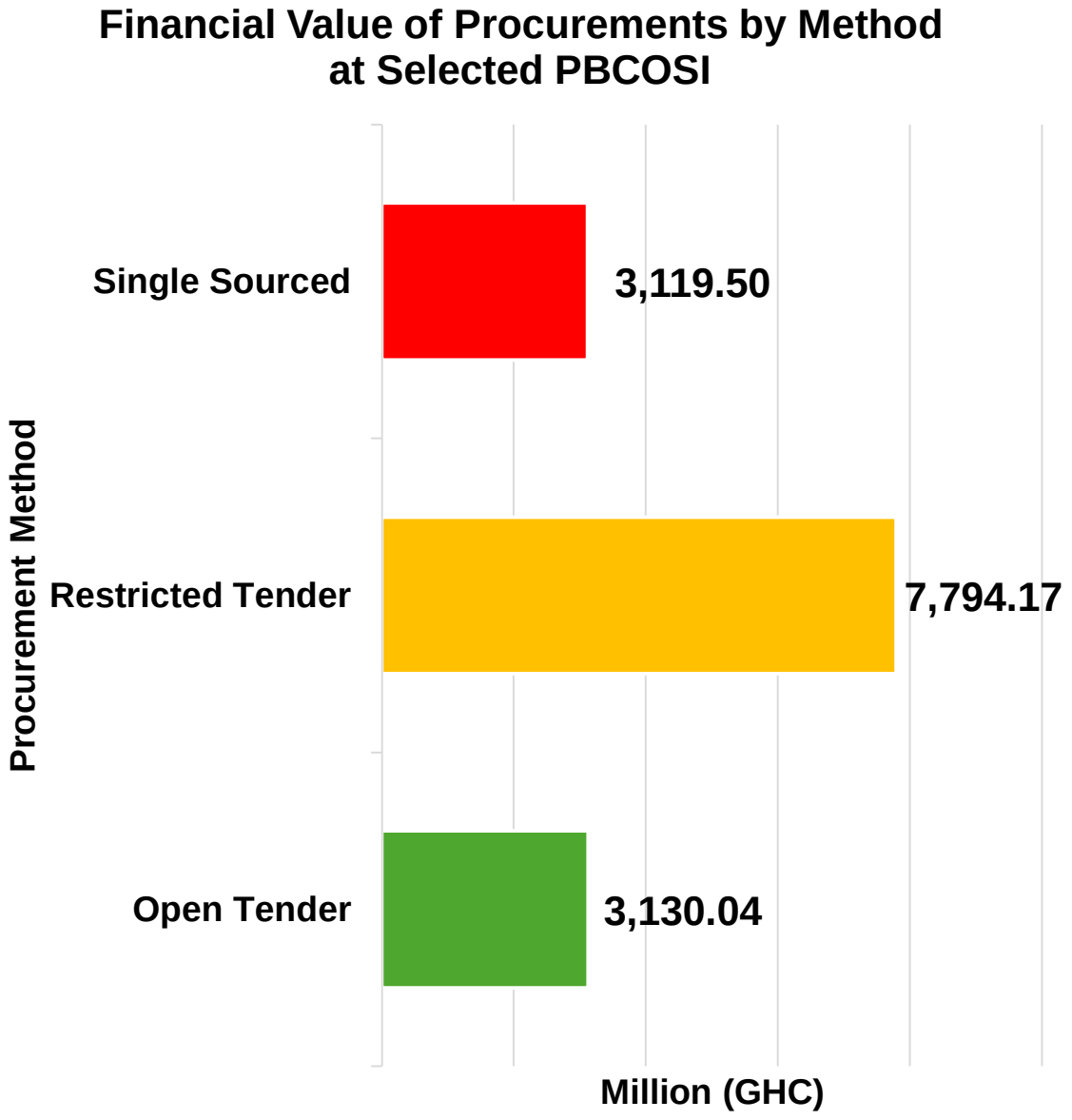
The public procurement system is highly vulnerable to corruption.





Single Sourcing is the most preferred method for high financial value contracts in Ghana.





IMANI's private sector corruption survey also indicate high vulnerability in areas like procurement, licensing, taxation, bidding/sales, and import/exports.



IMANI CPE, 2021

A new form of corruption: State Capture thriving through the private sector.

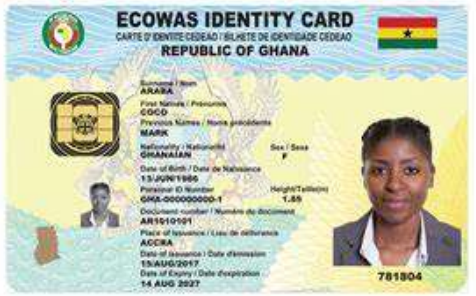
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IMANI ALERT:
THE 10 MOST ALARMING PROBLEMS WITH AGYAPA

STRATEGIC MOBILIZATION LIMITED





New Patriotic Party – Key Areas of Anti-Corruption Promises



- **Leverage Digitization to address corruption in government processes.**
- **Work towards a cashless economy to address bribery and corruption**
- **Reform Public Procurement**
- **Deal with abuse of political Office**

Leveraging Technology

- Fully implementing and deploying a digital Platform to transform the way civil servants work.
- Adopting the Once-Only Principle, where citizens and businesses provide information only once, and that information is reused across various government services and agencies as needed.
- Implementing blockchain technology and smart contracts for secure data exchange and transparent e-government services

Cashless Economy

- We will promote the use of e-Cedi while also ensuring privacy protection.
- Deepen the use of digital financial services.
- Promote full digital payments for all transactions by facilitating seamless electronic transactions, promoting digital inclusion, and supporting the growth of our digital economy and state.
- launching a Ghana Universal Digital (GUD) Wallet (“Sovereign Wallet”) to facilitate social protection transfers.

Reform Public Procurement

- Fully integrate the GHANEPS into the GIFMIS.
- Establish an e-Marketplace for Public Procurement, similar to Korea's On-line E-Procurement System (KONEPS).
- Review Section 87 of the Public Procurement Act to stipulate a maximum variation in contract prices

Deal with Abuse of Political Office

- Enact a Corrupt Practices Act.
- Continue the process of restructuring the public sector Internal Audit function.
- Review Article 286 of the Constitution to expand Asset Declaration to cover senior staff and head of regulatory agencies.
- Annually publish the list of all beneficiaries of public scholarships.

National Democratic Congress – Key Areas of Anti-Corruption Promises



- Corruption Investigations
- Public Service Reforms
- Public Procurement Reforms

Corruption Investigations

- launch “Operation-Recover-All-Loot” to investigate, prosecute, and recover proceeds of corruption.
- Set up an inquiry into the matter of looted state lands and the implementation of the Accra Redevelopment Policy.
- Conduct a forensic audit and an inquiry into the National Cathedral scandal and make recommendations on the future of the project.

Public Service Reforms

- Initiate legislation to prohibit political appointees, politically exposed persons and all serving public officials from purchasing state assets.
- Enact a conflict-of-interest legislation for all government and public officials.
- Review and enforce the Assets Declaration regime in Chapter 24 of the Constitution and the Public Office Holders (Declaration of Assets and Disqualification) Act 1998, (Act 550)

Public Procurement Reforms

- Set up an Independent Value for Money office to scrutinize government procurements above $5 million or as Parliament may decide.

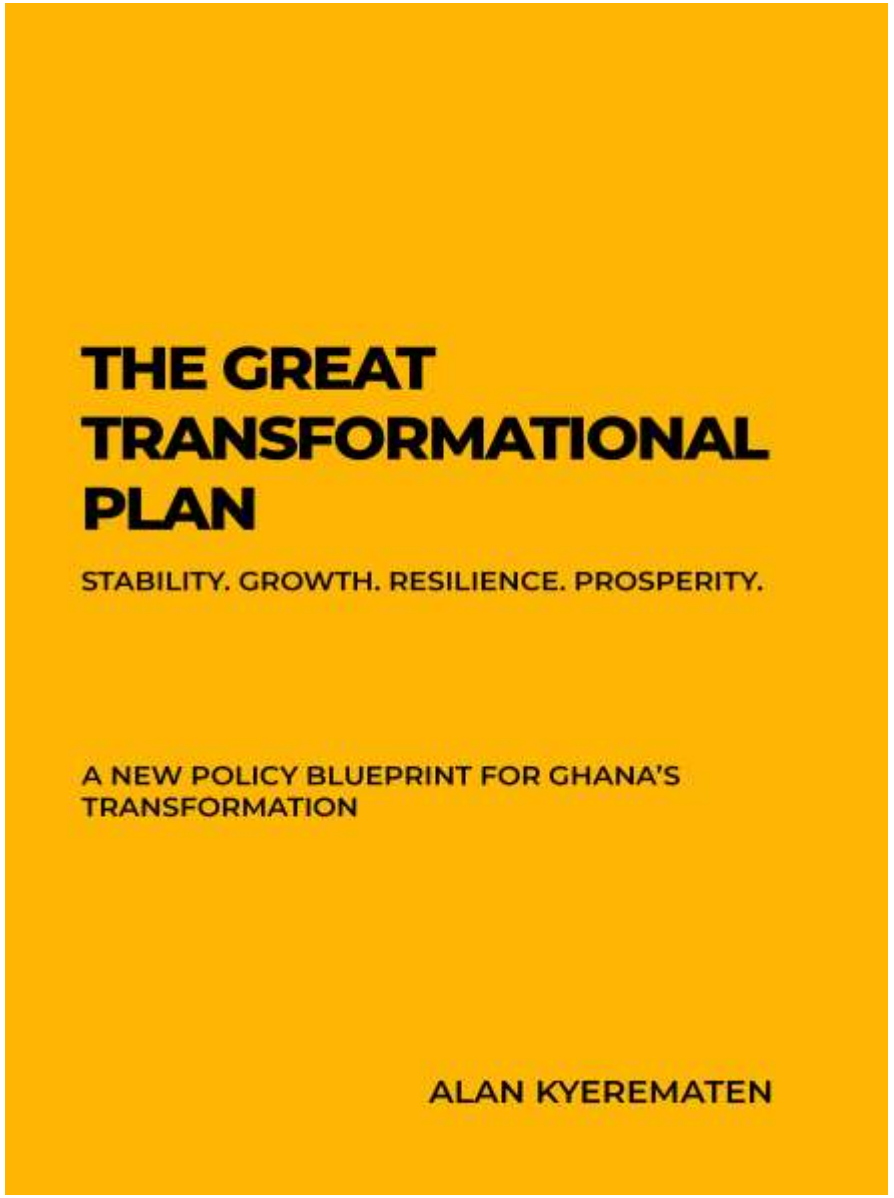
- Review the Public Procurement Act, 2003 (Act 663) (as amended) to prevent conflict of interest and insider dealing by politically exposed persons in the award of contracts.

- Implement measures to curtail abuse of single-sourced and restricted tendering procurement.

- Collaborate with the Judiciary to establish a special court for persons whom adverse findings have been made against by the Auditor-General and Parliament.

- Support the Auditor-General to enforce the surcharge powers of his/her office to retrieve embezzled funds with interest.

Movement for Change – Key Areas of Anti-Corruption Promises



- **Promote integrity & leadership**
- **Legislative Reforms**
- **Anti-Corruption Reward Schemes**
- **Public Service Reforms**

Promote Integrity and Leadership

- Demonstrate a leadership of personal integrity and political will to fight corruption, and take decisive action against politically exposed persons involved in corruption-related activities.

- Introduce an Anti-Corruption ‘Citizens Charter’ requiring every person as provided under Article 41 (f) of the 1992 Constitution, to “protect and preserve public property and expose and combat misuse and waste of public funds and property”.

Legislative Reforms

- Isolate all corruption-related provisions in existing legislation, and consolidate them in one enabling legislation.

- Amend the Constitution to establish and appoint an Anti-Corruption Czar with independent prosecutorial authority, separate from that of the Attorney General.

- Review the Procurement Act to improve inclusive and transparent access to public economic and commercial opportunity, whilst reducing collusion

Anti-Corruption Award Schemes

- Establish an ‘Anti-Corruption Award Scheme’ to reward.

- Incentivize key public sector officials and appointees for demonstrating zero tolerance for corruption in the course of their duties.

Public Service Reform

- Amend existing asset declaration rules to strengthen disclosure, and introduce new forms of asset tracking and recovery, including but not;

- limited to instruments such as lifestyle audit for tracking unexplained wealth

- recovery of proceeds of corruption.

Key Issues

The promises are vague, and none of the manifesto critically address the drivers of corruption in Ghana.

The parties manifestos overly focus on building systems instead of addressing the process issues that lead to corruption.

None of the manifestos target reforming the excessive control of the executive over the public procurement system.

None of the manifestos touched on leveraging the Office of Special Prosecutor to deepen the fight against corruption.

What does this mean for Development Partners?



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Imani has carved a niche in Ghana's policy environment for conducting objective and independent analysis and critique on many issues.

Imani CPE is ranked the best Think Tank in Ghana, among the Top 5 Best Think Tanks in Sub-Saharan Africa, and among the Top 100 Think Tanks in the world according to the University of Pennsylvania.

Imani CPE was named as a finalist of the 2017 Templeton Freedom Awards.