

RED FLAG MOVEMENT

Over years, anti-corruption work by both government and civil society in Ghana has produced many recipes, but not much in the way of a square meal. This is reflected in the Transparency International's Corruption Perception Index (CPI 2017), Ghana had its lowest corruption perception score in the past four years. Perception of corruption amongst citizens in Ghana remains high!

A likely reason for the increase in the perception that corruption is on the rise is the number of cases of alleged corruption reported and discussed in the public domain, especially in the mass media and social media. Another reason for the high perception of corruption amongst citizens, which is supported by the CPI, is the fact that most of these reported corruption cases are not dealt with to a logical conclusion, or at least in a way in which the public can see a clear line of action and follow through to sanction offenders.

In view of the above, Penplusbytes with support from Strengthening Action Against Corruption (STAAC) is implementing the "**Red Flag Movement**" which aims at promoting a new approach in the fight against corruption anchored on the humanisation of corruption, a real-time information and knowledge dissemination system that tracks and traces alleged corruption acts in the public sphere with direct linkages to law enforcement agencies.

The Red Flag movement is premised on harnessing and animating various exciting work of all stakeholders both at the public and private sector levels in order to sustain a meaningful discourse on corruption cases. It will ultimately serve as a repository of all reported corruption cases and give a bird's eye-view of the state of corruption in Ghana and raise the *Red Flag* when corrupt cases are not dealt with to a logical conclusion. The platform will also be designed to identify and give praise to institutions that are doing well in fighting corruption so others can learn from them and do better.

The project provides a systematic approach to track and trace alleged corrupted cases and issues in order to ensure greater visibility and sustain anti-corruption work. The Red Flag Movement is designed to serve as knowledge and information resource for the media, civil society organisations and other stakeholders. In addition, the Red Flag Movement will offer a trusted point of reference to the pressure groups and citizen movements who seek to advocate for sanctions and punishment for corrupt officials.

At the heart of our intervention will be an innovative all media platform, which will serve as a rallying point for anti-corruption fight by supporting collaborations, as well as provide information and knowledge exchange for key actors in the fight against corruption landscape. This will be done through providing an Issues and Cases Tracker, which will map out all relevant content on reported corruption cases over their lifetime from allegations, investigations, to prosecution.

The overall aim of our innovative project is to have a well-informed and active citizenry, civil society and media using a combination of traditional mass media and new digital tools to sustain pressure on accountability institutions to fight corruption.

This overall aim will be achieved through the following objectives:

- a) To use innovative technologies to illuminate and sustain public attention/interest on alleged corrupt acts and cases;
- b) To use investigative journalism to unearth, report on and follow-through on stories of corruption

c) To stimulate engagements, partnerships, networking and collaborations between anti-corruption state institutions (e.g. EOCO, CID, OSP, Auditor General), anti-corruption CSOs as well as other relevant actors

A key deliverable and achievement of the Red Flag Movement project would be the anti-corruption database in real-time tracking and tracing how corruption acts/cases are progressing or stalling, thereby providing the answer to the key question on “how is Ghana doing in the fight against corruption?”