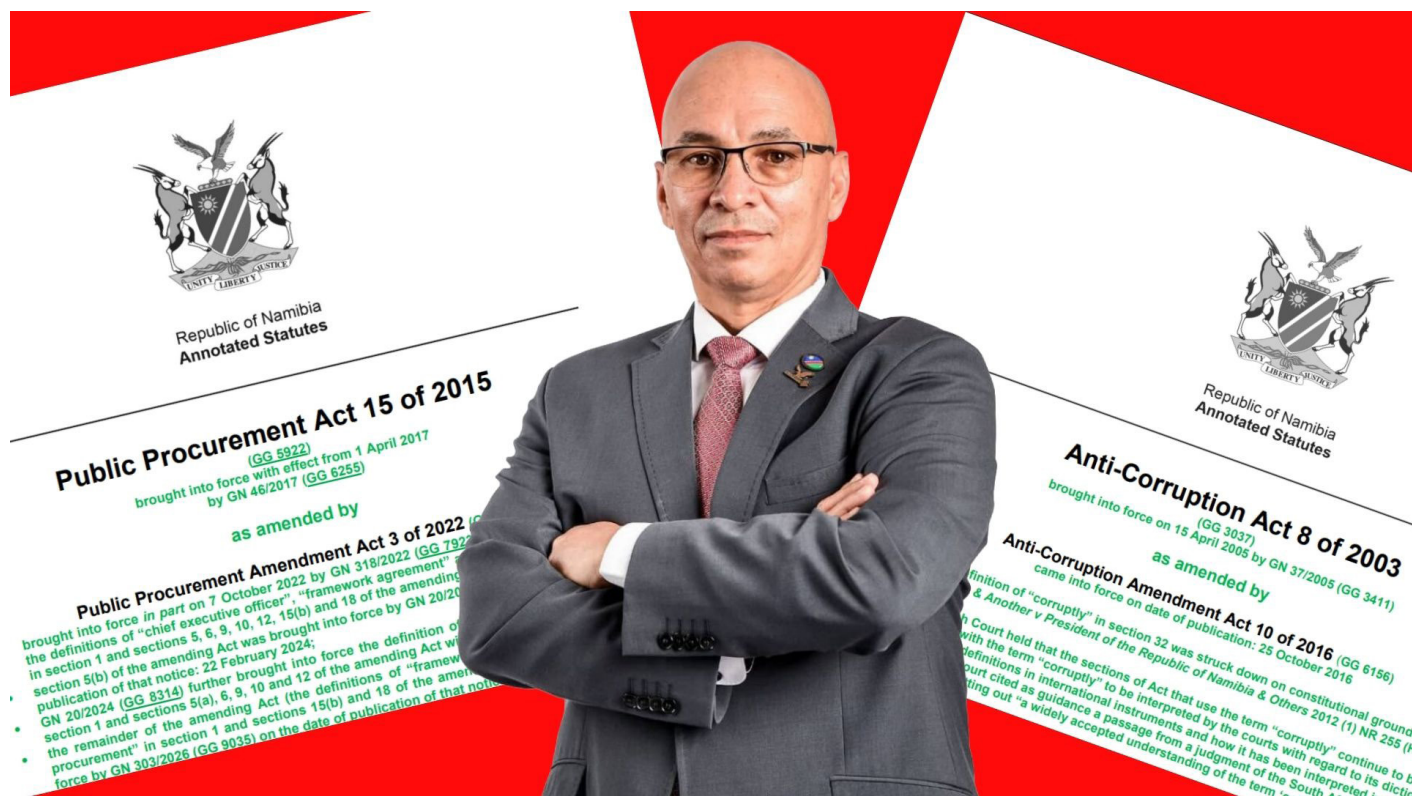


Eiseb's Big Task



As procurement scandals multiply and public scrutiny intensifies, the ACC will be tested like never before

With the eyes of a nation on him, Bryan Eiseb officially took over as the Director-General of the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) at the start of October 2026.

Eiseb steps into this very high profile position against the backdrop of Namibians being overwhelmingly and increasingly distrustful of both the ACC and the Namibian government's anti-corruption efforts in general, as shown by successive [Afro-barometer surveys](#) over the last two decades.

Notably, even before taking office as the head of the ACC, Bryan Eiseb identified the public procurement system as a primary location of corruption. For instance, [in a July 2026 statement](#), Eiseb, at the time still head of the Financial Intelligence Centre (FIC), repeatedly flagged public procurement corruption as a threat to state service delivery and stability.

In the statement he noted that a Namibia corruption risk as-

essment called for "particular attention" to be devoted to public procurement in national anti-corruption efforts.

He also talked about "effective prevention measures", stating that the Anti-Corruption Act of 2003 "expressly recognises corruption prevention as a fundamental element of the national anti-corruption framework reflecting international best practices". Eiseb emphasised public trust and public participation, and the critical importance of whistleblower protection.

He ended his statement by saying: "In conclusion the Namibian AC framework provided by the Anti-Corruption Act, together with the standards established by international and regional instruments, all point in the same direction: it requires stronger institutions, greater transparency, financial integrity, public participation, and accountability."

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Upon taking office, [Eiseb announced](#) that anti-corruption law enforcement is to be strengthened through the creation of “a multi-agency anti-corruption fusion centre”, which sounds like a coordination and cooperation hub for law enforcement and regulatory bodies.

Significantly, public procurement was identified as a [“priority area”](#) for this initiative.

Spotlighting shortcomings

The significance of Eiseb’s July 2026 statement is that it comes across as agenda-setting now that he is head of the ACC.

It also points to all the areas where the ACC has apparently lost its way over the years under the leadership of founding and long-serving former head, Paulus Noa.

In short, the ACC has failed to effectively lead and coordinate the state’s anti-corruption responses.

The ACC has failed to build meaningful law enforcement and regulatory cooperation platforms.

The ACC has fallen significantly short in rolling out effective corruption prevention measures across any and all spheres and sectors.

The ACC has not been a vocal and resolute promoter of transparency and accountability, and has not prominently and consistently championed access to information and whistleblower protection. Both the Access to Information Act of 2022 and the Whistleblower Protection Act of 2017 remain unimplemented to date.

Similarly, the ACC has failed to lead on creating, implementing and enforcing robust state-wide integrity and good conduct codes.

In the public procurement context the ACC has been a passive and reactive shadow, despite the public procurement landscape being a primary corruption location and crime scene.

Eiseb’s pitch

As demonstrated, in statements before and upon taking office as the new ACC Director-General, Bryan Eiseb appears to have pitched a redemptive direction.

For instance, with regard to whistleblower protection specifically, Eiseb noted in his July 2026 statement that “citizen participation and whistleblowing strengthen corruption prevention measures”. And he added: “Citizens should be empowered to report wrongdoing without fear of retaliation, because when citizens participate in accountability processes, institutions become stronger and corruption risks are reduced.”

He continued: “Citizens are frequently the first to observe misconduct. Effective prevention therefore requires: Anonymous reporting channels; Secure whistleblowing mechanisms; Accessible complaints systems and; Public awareness initiatives.” He goes on to state: “In preventing corruption, public institutions should actively promote: Codes of conduct; Integrity training; Conflict-of-interest management; Financial and other relevant disclosure measures and; Accountability mechanisms.”

All of these speak to governance weaknesses and corruption risks on the public procurement landscape.

That said, Bryan Eiseb has clearly identified public procurement as a priority area for the ACC under his leadership. That means he should take a leading role in building strong integrity,

accountability and transparency mechanisms into the procurement framework, and then proactively and robustly contribute to compliance and law enforcement.

It is, after all, no less than what he has been pitching recently.

Procurement Tracker’s recommendations for Bryan Eiseb

1. Push for the immediate and full implementation of the Access to Information Act of 2022 and the Whistleblower Protection Act of 2017;
2. Launch a national procurement whistleblowing programme and create a dedicated procurement corruption hotline;
3. Make procurement integrity a dedicated ACC priority area by creating a Public Procurement Integrity Unit within the ACC;
4. Shift the ACC toward proactive, not reactive, procurement investigations by using data and randomised audits and financial investigations;
5. Build the multi-agency anti-corruption fusion centre around procurement data;
6. Push for mandatory beneficial ownership disclosure and transparency in all public procurement contracting;
7. Strengthen integrity systems inside procuring entities and provide ACC-led training on red-flag detection and UNCAC preventive measures;
8. Promote integrity, transparency and accountability by publishing an annual ‘State of Procurement Integrity’ report.



Photo: The Namibian

Bryan Eiseb

Roadmap to Change

New Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) Director-General Bryan Eiseb has been making strong statements about sharpening Namibia's anti-corruption approaches and efforts. However, Eiseb is not saying anything new, and his statements rather reflect unfulfilled commitments under the UN Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC).

These commitments, or actions, were unanimously agreed to by Southern African states at a UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) [meeting at Luanda, Angola, in mid-2023](#).

We wrote about these commitments or actions in [Procurement Tracker 23](#), as well as how Namibia compared in terms of its procurement framework under this new roadmap.

This roadmap contains one general commitment and two priority thematic areas that Southern Africa states identified themselves.

The general commitment is to whistleblower protection.

The first thematic priority is "National and Regional Coordination" and the second is "Public Procurement".

Following are some of the commitments that SADC member states, including Namibia, agreed to.

General commitment:

General Commitment

The Conference recognized the establishment of effective whistle-blower reporting and protection systems as an essential cross-cutting commitment for the implementation of the roadmap.

Thematic 1: National and Regional Coordination

Objective 5: Intensify efforts to promote coordination and cooperation at national level

Activity 5.1: Promote coordination and cooperation between anti-corruption bodies and other relevant bodies, including those responsible for collection of data and statistics;

Activity 5.2: Involve supreme audit institutions in anti-corruption efforts;

Activity 5.3: Promote interaction between anti-corruption bodies and sectors vulnerable to corruption.

Activity 5.4: Create or strengthen a platform for interaction between state and non-state actors, in the prevention and combatting of corruption; and

Activity 5.5: Increase coordination among different stakeholders on the prevention and reporting of corruption and the protection of whistle-blowers.

Thematic 2: Public Procurement

Objective 1: Increase transparency in public procurement systems

Activity 1.1: Encourage Member States to establish mechanisms to conduct periodic studies on vulnerabilities in public procurement systems;

Activity 1.2: Encourage the use of E-Government Procurement systems;

Activity 1.3: Adopt open contracting data standards and implement the open contracting principles;

Activity 1.4: Launch public awareness initiatives to improve public perception of the integrity of the public procurement systems; and

Activity 1.5: Make beneficial ownership information accessible.

Objective 2: Increase citizens demand for accountability in public procurement

Activity 2.1: Establish effective whistle-blower reporting and protection mechanisms in public procurement;

Activity 2.2: Include non-state actors and private sector in public contract monitoring;

Activity 2.3: Establish an electronic portal of public contractors for due diligence reference checks; and

Activity 2.4: Educate citizens on their rights to demand accountability.

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Namibia is party to efforts to fast-track the implementation of the UNCAC provisions on public procurement, and it should be noted what progress, if any, has been made

At the end of May 2023, governments and civil society representatives from across the Southern Africa Develop-

Challenges of Regional Cooperation in the Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC). The gathering was focused on encouraging SADC member states to implement their commitments under two broad thematic areas, namely national and regional cooperation and public

under five broad objectives, specifically:

- **Objective 1:** Increase transparency in public procurement systems;
- **Objective 2:** Increase citizens demand for accountability in public procurement;
- **Objective 3:** Strengthen institutional mechanisms for public procurement oversight;

Bryan Eiseb's recent statements speak to commitments agreed to in mid-2023. See *Procurement Tracker 23* for details.

Objective 3: Strengthen institutional mechanisms for public procurement oversight

Activity 3.1: Monitor and enforce audit recommendations on public procurement;

Activity 3.2: Strengthen intergovernmental coordination between procurement and anti-corruption agencies;

Activity 3.3: Strengthen partnerships between state and non-state actors in capacity building; and

Activity 3.4: Conduct Methodology for Assessment of Procurement Systems (MAPS) for procurement reform.

Objective 4: Increase professional standards for public procurement officials

Activity 4.1: Enact legislation or other measures as relevant to provide for declaration of assets and interests for public officials involved in public procurement;

Activity 4.2: Introduce professional certification for public procurement officials and a requirement to subscribe to a professional body, when applicable;

Activity 4.3: Develop a Code of Conduct and Ethics for public procurement officials that includes a policy on conflict of interests;

Activity 4.4: Criminalize abuse of duty and conflict of interests by public procurement officials; and

Activity 4.5: Conduct periodic training of public procurement officers.

Objective 5: Enhance regional cooperation in public procurement management

Activity 5.1: Publish information on public contractors who are blacklisted;

Activity 5.2: Provide regional standards for blacklisting contractors and develop mechanisms for cross debarment in the region;

Activity 5.3: Publish international tenders on the SADC website;

Activity 5.4: Conduct regional benchmarking visits and exchange programmes for public procurement oversight bodies; and

Activity 5.5: Encourage SADC Member States to establish an online registry for beneficial ownership.

Public procurement in numbers

The following data has been gathered from information available through the e-Procurement Client System operated by the Procurement Policy Unit in the Ministry of Finance.

Annual Procurement Plans 2026/2027

Halfway through the 2026/2027 government financial year, **only 87 annual procurement plans for 2026/2027** are viewable via the [e-Procurement Portal](#) of the Procurement Policy Unit (PPU).

According to [new regulations](#) published on 4 August 2026, there now appears to be about **260** procuring public entities, all of which should have submitted their annual procurement plans to the Procurement Policy Unit (PPU).

This would mean that only about **33%** of public procuring entities have submitted plans to the PPU for the **2026/27 financial year**.

If for the current financial year **only the 176** public procuring entities that had previously been reported are being considered, then only about **49%** have submitted their plans to the PPU for **2026/27**.

According to **Section 25 (4)(a)** of the Public Procurement Amendment Act of 2022, public entities must submit their plans to the PPU **“at least three months before the commencement of each financial year”**.

This means plans have to reach the PPU **by the end of December of every year**, as the financial year of the government ends at the end of March the following year.

Of the 87 procurement plans viewable via the e-Procurement Portal **only 8** were submitted to the PPU before the end of December 2025, which would mean that **less than 5%** of all plans **were submitted on time**.

The 2026/2027 financial year is the **10th year of implementation** of the Public Procurement Act of 2015 framework.

Over the 10 years the public service **has failed to achieve an adequate level of compliance** with the handling of annual procurement plans.