

ACTis provides risk analysis and early intervention recommendations against state capture and corruption in South African government institutions

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT

ACT | ACCOUNTABILITY TRACKER

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About the Institution

The Department of Home Affairs (DHA) is a national department responsible for managing South Africa’s citizenship, civil registration (births, deaths and marriages), international migration and refugee protection. DHA reports to the Minister of Home Affairs and is led by a Director-General (DG), who serves as the Department’s accounting officer. In 2024/25, its expenditure was R11.9bn.¹

Flag Status

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
								
Improper appointments	Co-opting key functions	Climate of fear or favour	Corrupt awards	Financial malpractice	Obstructing accountability	Manipulating perceptions	Private gain	Shadow network

ISS Analysis

- ACTis has raised one flag for DHA and placed three under monitoring.
 - Actions taken by former and current Ministers and the DG to address alleged procurement irregularities indicate resilience. Two large contracts found to be irregular were dealt with decisively, illustrating effective accountability mechanisms.
 - However, the Department's continued use of a security company previously implicated in corruption allegations at other state entities,
- together with persistent weaknesses in internal controls, raises concerns about ongoing vulnerabilities in procurement oversight.

 - Weak financial control systems, whether resulting from deliberate interference or inadequate oversight, can facilitate repeated irregular or corrupt transactions, creating opportunities for networks of officials and private actors to benefit over time.

Findings

Flag #3

Climate of Fear or Favour



The flag is being monitored to determine whether weaknesses in consequence management reflect a broader pattern of inconsistent accountability.

- In 2024/25, the Auditor-General of South Africa (AGSA) reported a lack of consequence management, noting that investigations into allegations of financial misconduct by DHA officials were not conducted.²

Flag #4

Corrupt Awards



The flag is being monitored due to the appointment of a company previously implicated in procurement irregularities, although findings indicating resilience have also been observed.

- The Department's 2024/25 deviation report lists the extension of two security contracts with Mafoko Security Patrols, a company previously implicated in alleged irregularities and corruption. The contracts, awarded in 2021, were valued at R54m in Limpopo and R32m in the North West, and were then extended by R3m and R1.8m, respectively, in 2024/25.³
 - The SIU implicated Mafoko Security Patrols in corruption at the South African Broadcasting Corporation in 2017.⁴ More recently, Airports Company South Africa (ACSA) cancelled a Mafoko Security Patrols contract after admitting significant irregularities in the emergency procurement process to purchase explosive detection devices in 2022. Sources within ACSA alleged that the tender process was rigged and the units' price was significantly inflated.⁵ The contract is subject to ongoing litigation.
 - Mafoko Security Patrols has also been accused of failing to pay workers' salaries on time and owing workers an estimated R111m-R330m in pension contributions, according to the South African Federation of Trade Unions.⁶
- In 2021, two major tenders were flagged for corruption – one by a whistleblower and one by the AGSA. The Department has addressed both.
 - A 2021 R200m IT firewall and maintenance contract was found to be irregular due to conflicts of interest.⁷ The DHA received a whistleblower report alleging that Director of Information Systems Security Zakhele Khuzwayo exerted undue influence on the main contractor, Foursight IT Business Solutions, in favour of the subcontractor, Aim-Right Trading. Khuzwayo's brother reportedly worked



Flag raised



Flag lowered



Under monitoring

for Aim-Right Trading. Khuzwayo resigned before disciplinary procedures began.⁸

- A 2015 Automated Biometric Identification System (ABIS) contract worth R400m was found to be irregular due to collusion between employees of the State Information Technology Agency (which managed the procurement process), DHA officials and the winning bidder, EOH.⁹
- Former Minister of Home Affairs, Aaron Motsoaledi, and DG Livhuwani Makhode initiated independent forensic investigations into both contracts after they were flagged as irregular. After both investigations confirmed procurement irregularities (in February 2021 for the ABIS contract and September 2022 for the IT firewall contract), the contracts were cancelled, disciplinary processes were initiated, and the cases were referred to law enforcement. The disciplinary processes were ongoing as of 2023, and the outcomes are unknown.¹⁰
- The Special Investigating Unit (SIU) is investigating the IT firewall contract (among other potential misconduct at the DHA) under Proclamation 154 of 2024.¹¹
- Rather than involving irregular contracts, many reports of corruption in the DHA stem from administrative clerks in specific DHA branch offices allegedly being paid bribes to issue visas or identity documents illegally. Under Minister of Home Affairs, Leon Schreiber, the DHA has fired 38 officials over the past year for this type of misconduct.¹² The SIU released an interim report with findings on this corruption on 23 February 2026.¹³

Flag #5

Financial Malpractice



The flag is raised because persistent weaknesses in financial controls have increased the risk of financial irregularities.

- A forensic investigation into the irregular IT tender from 2021 found that the DHA paid fraudulent invoices submitted by contractors, including R1.14m to a contractor in March 2023, after the DHA had cancelled the contract.¹⁴
- In 2024/2025, the AGSA found 'significant internal control deficiencies' related to the Department's failure to prepare complete financial statements and implement controls over information systems and technology.¹⁵ The AGSA also reported that a Material Irregularity identified in May 2023, related to inadequate controls to collect all money due from fines and penalties, had not been adequately addressed by July 2025.¹⁶



Flag raised



Flag lowered



Under monitoring

Flag #6

Obstructing Accountability



The flag is being monitored because shortcomings in financial record-keeping may be limiting effective accountability and oversight.

- In 2024/25, the Department received a qualified audit from the AGSA because inadequate controls limited the DHA’s ability to account for claims made against it.¹⁷



Flag raised



Flag lowered



Under monitoring

Recommended Actions

	DUTY BEARER	ACTION(S)	ASSOCIATED FLAGS
1.	Department of Home Affairs	- Strengthen financial controls and consequence management. - Review appointment of Mafoko Security Patrols.	Flag #4: Corrupt Awards Flag #5: Financial Malpractice Flag #3: Climate of Fear of Favour
2.	Special Investigating Unit	Seek an expansion of the current Proclamation to investigate contracts awarded to Mafoko Security Patrols.	Flag #4: Corrupt Awards
3.	Portfolio Committee on Home Affairs	Require progress reports from DHA on addressing AGSA findings on inadequate internal controls.	Flag #5: Financial Malpractice



Flag raised



Flag lowered



Under monitoring

The 9 Flags

Flag #1

Improper Appointments

Improper appointments, dismissals or failure to remove individuals in senior positions may be used to drive a corrupt agenda.

Flag #2

Co-opting Key Functions

Informal control may be established over critical functions within the institution to abuse them.

Flag #3

Climate of Fear or Favour

The working culture favours loyalty over duty; alignment with a corrupt agenda is rewarded, and resistance is punished.

Flag #4

Corrupt Awards

Contracts, licences, partnerships, loans and/or investments may be awarded irregularly and repeatedly benefit the same actors.

Flag #5

Financial Malpractice

The institution's financial management practices may be abused to advance a corrupt agenda.

Flag #6

Obstructing Accountability

The institution's internal operations might be deliberately obscured to hide potential misconduct.

Flag #7

Manipulating Perceptions

A public narrative that frames misconduct as innocence may be promoted.

Flag #8

Private Gain

Illicit gains may be distributed to benefit the same actors.

Flag #9

Shadow Network

The same public and private actors may collude to gain control over an institution's assets and functions, benefiting repeatedly.

About ACTis

What is ACTis?

The Anti-Corruption Tracker Information System is an initiative of the Anti-Corruption and Accountability Project at the Institute for Security Studies. It provides analysis on corruption and state capture in South Africa, to inform early intervention and enforcement. It utilises a system of indicators and an AI-driven data-collection and analysis tool, validated by human experts. It identifies risks within individual government institutions and produces actionable recommendations to address them, with a view to disrupting patterns of state capture and corruption.

Findings are shared directly with government and other duty-bearers, civil society organisations, the media and the public, empowering authorities to intervene, strengthening accountability, and enabling citizens activism.

Links to ACTis Information:

Further project information may be found at the following links:

[Terms and Definitions](#)

[Project Methodology and Analytical Framework](#)

[About the Anti-Corruption and Accountability project](#)

[About the Institute for Security Studies](#)

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