



Corruption in Kenya: Elias Mokua calls for tough enforcement and transparency

In Kenya, The Standard is considered one of the oldest and most influential quality newspapers in the country; it has been published since 1902 and regularly shapes political debate with its wide reach. In a widely acclaimed commentary in today's Standard (30 October 2025), the managing director of the Loyola Centre for Media and Communication, Dr Elias Mokua, convincingly describes the consequences of corruption in Kenya. In sober, pointed language, he paints a picture of a system in which bribery and abuse of office drain public coffers, erode trust and weaken the performance of government services.

Mokua warns that corruption is not just a matter for the elite, but shapes everyday life. He emphasises that the normalisation of small 'favours' encourages larger scandals. He calls for consistent prosecution, the return of embezzled funds and stricter integrity checks for public officials.

Corruption in Kenya

The commentary frames the crisis as a burden on society as a whole: when funds disappear, schools, clinics and infrastructure are the first to suffer; children lose opportunities and communities lose trust. Corruption thus appears to be an obstacle to development that simultaneously distorts election campaigns, procurement, the police and the judiciary.

Transparency International CPI 2024

For context, the text refers to international indices. According to these, Kenya scores around 32 out of 100 points in the CPI 2024 and ranks 121st out of 180 – a slight improvement, but still well below the global average. This supports the thesis that structural reforms are still pending.

Kenya Bribery Index 2025

Surveys are cited as an internal indicator, according to which around a quarter of respondents were confronted with demands for bribes within a year. The police, land services and civil registry are particularly frequent targets; average payments are said to be particularly high in parts of the judiciary.

EACC

The anti-corruption authority EACC reports consistently high levels of bribery, nepotism and abuse of office in nationwide surveys. Mokua concludes that enforcement must become more noticeable: faster proceedings, asset recovery, protection for whistleblowers and consistently digital, open procurement.

Loyola Centre for Media and Communication

The LCMC, of which Mokua is the executive director, combines research, education and media practice. In this role, he argues that a culture of integrity can only emerge if political leaders set an example and citizens sanction misconduct at the ballot box.

Conclusion: The standard commentary frames corruption in Kenya as a matter of national survival. The EACC, CPI 2024, Kenya Bribery Index 2025 and the voice of Elias Mokua (Loyola Centre for Media and Communication) paint the following picture: without tough enforcement, open data and political role models, reform remains rhetoric – with them, billions in losses and social costs can be significantly reduced.

5-point FAQ

1) What is today's Standard commentary about?

The commentary, written by Dr Elias Mokua (Loyola Centre for Media and Communication), describes in indirect speech that corruption in Kenya systematically weakens the state and society and must therefore be treated as a matter of national survival.

2) Why is corruption in Kenya so harmful, according to the commentary?

The text explains that bribery and abuse of office destroy trust, deplete public coffers and thus directly affect schools, clinics and infrastructure.

3) What data supports this assessment?

For context, the press review refers to common indicators: Transparency International's CPI 2024 ranks Kenya at around 32/100 points (well below the global average); surveys such as the Kenya Bribery Index report that around a quarter of respondents were confronted with demands for bribes within a year; the EACC consistently documents high levels of bribery and nepotism.

4) What reforms are being called for?

In summary, the commentary calls for consistent prosecution with swift proceedings and asset recovery, transparency (open data, digital procurement, whistleblower protection) and political role models.

5) What does this mean for citizens and the economy?

It is argued that less corruption would lead to noticeably better services, predictable investments and more opportunities for children and young people; credible enforcement could free up billions for public purposes.

Kennzahlen Korruption in Kenia <i>Corruption in Kenya – Key figures</i>		
	CPI 2024 (Transparency International)	32/100 points, rank 121/180 (below world and regional average)
	Kenya Bribery Index 2025	25% of respondents experienced bribery in last 12 monthss, common sectors: police, land services, civil registration
	EACC-NECS 2024	high corruption and nepotism in police, county governments, land services
	Fiscal Losses (AfDB)	194 billion KES per year due to corrupttion, IFF, inefficiencies + additional inefficiency costs in state budget

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