



The 17th Meeting of the INTOSAI Working Group on Fight Against Corruption and Money Laundering (WGFAAML)

Engaging Citizens and Fostering Trust: Effective Approaches to Public Corruption Reporting

Presented by:

Ms. Nattiya Warotthanakit, Director of Audit Division
Ms. Sutthida Paiboon, Auditor - Professional Level
State Audit Office of the Kingdom of Thailand

Presentation Outline

- 1. Overview of SAI Thailand's Role in Public Corruption Reporting**
- 2. Current Landscape of Public Corruption Reporting**
- 3. Citizen Engagement Strategies**
- 4. Building Trust in Reporting Systems**
- 5. Notable Examples of Effective Citizen Corruption Reporting**
- 6. Conclusion**

1. Overview of SAI Thailand's Role in Public Corruption Reporting

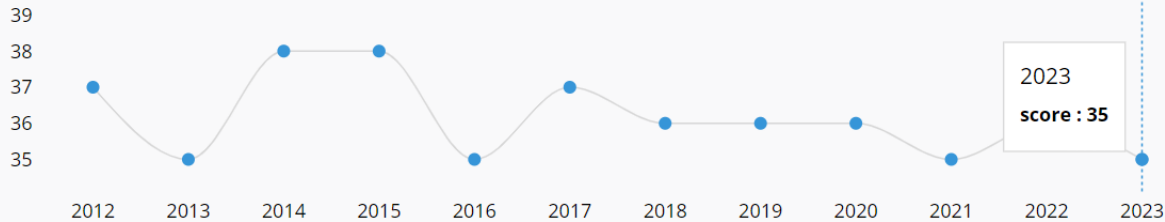


2. Current Landscape of Public Corruption Reporting

2.1 Current State of Public Corruption in Thailand

Thailand's Corruption Perception Index

Score changes 2012 - 2023



Source: <https://www.transparency.org>

➤ **Statistics and key findings on public corruption**

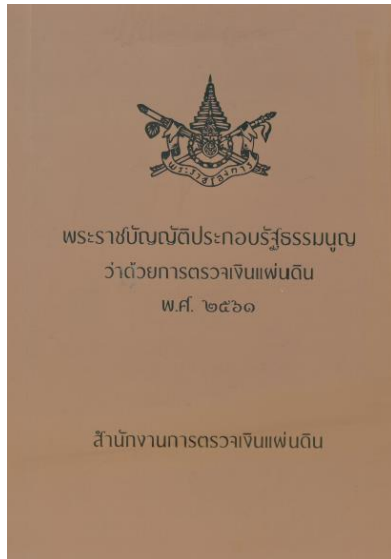
Why are individuals unwilling to report
corruption?

**HELP FIGHT
FRAUD.
WASTE.
ABUSE.**



2. Current Landscape of Public Corruption Reporting

2.2 Mandate and Legal Framework Empowering SAI Thailand in Corruption Reporting



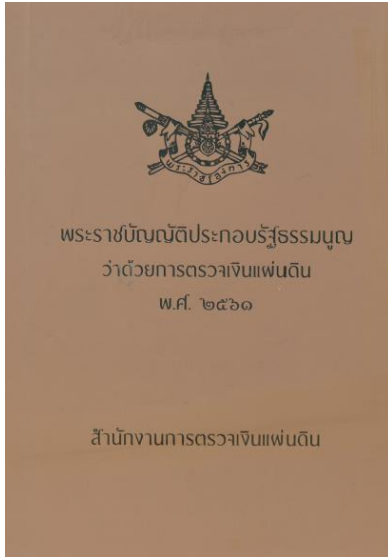
**State Audit Act
B.E. 2561 (2018)**

Self-Reporting

- Any flagged case is reviewed and if fraud or corruption is suspected, SAO will transfer the case to the National Anti-Corruption Commission, the Election Commission or other relevant agencies for further investigation.
 - *Section 7 of State Audit Act B.E. 2561*
 - *Section 88 of State Audit Act B.E. 2561*

2. Current Landscape of Public Corruption Reporting

2.2 Mandate and Legal Framework Empowering SAI Thailand in Corruption Reporting



State Audit Act
B.E. 2561 (2018)

หน้า ๑
เล่ม ๑๔๐ ตอนที่ ๕๘ ก ราชกิจจานุเบกษา ๒๙ กันยายน ๒๕๖๖

ระเบียบสำนักงานการตรวจเงินแผ่นดิน
ว่าด้วยการตรวจสอบการปฏิบัติตามกฎหมาย
พ.ศ. ๒๕๖๖

โดยที่คณะกรรมการตรวจเงินแผ่นดินได้กำหนดหลักเกณฑ์มาตรฐานเกี่ยวกับการตรวจเงินแผ่นดิน
ด้านการตรวจสอบการปฏิบัติตามกฎหมาย เพื่อให้ผู้ว่าการตรวจเงินแผ่นดินเอือปฏิบัติ จึงเป็นการสมควร
กำหนดขึ้นคอนและวิธีการตรวจสอบการปฏิบัติตามกฎหมายทุกลักษณะงานตรวจสอบของสำนักงาน
การตรวจเงินแผ่นดินให้สอดคล้องกับหลักเกณฑ์มาตรฐานเกี่ยวกับการตรวจเงินแผ่นดินที่คณะกรรมการ
ตรวจเงินแผ่นดินกำหนดเป็นมาตรฐานเดียวกัน มีประสิทธิภาพ และเป็นไปด้วยความเรียบร้อย
อาศัยอำนาจตามความในมาตรา ๕๓ และมาตรา ๕๔ (๔) (๕) ประกอบมาตรา ๕ วรรคสอง
มาตรา ๖ มาตรา ๗ มาตรา ๘ มาตรา ๘๕ มาตรา ๘๖ มาตรา ๘๗ มาตรา ๘๘ มาตรา ๘๙ มาตรา ๙๓
มาตรา ๙๕ มาตรา ๙๖ และมาตรา ๙๗ แห่งพระราชบัญญัติประกอบรัฐธรรมนูญว่าด้วย
การตรวจเงินแผ่นดิน พ.ศ. ๒๕๖๑ ผู้ว่าการตรวจเงินแผ่นดิน จึงออกระเบียบไว้ ดังต่อไปนี้
ข้อ ๑ ระเบียบนี้เรียกว่า "ระเบียบสำนักงานการตรวจเงินแผ่นดินว่าด้วยการตรวจสอบ
การปฏิบัติตามกฎหมาย พ.ศ. ๒๕๖๖"
ข้อ ๒ ระเบียบนี้ให้ใช้บังคับเมื่อพ้นกำหนดเก้าสิบวันนับแต่วันประกาศในราชกิจจานุเบกษา
เป็นต้นไป

Rule of State Audit Office
on Compliance Audit
B.E. 2566 (2023)

Citizen Reporting

- To increase trust, SAO has made efforts to promote societal participation by opening various channels to receive complaints.
 - *the Rule of State Audit Office on Compliance Audit B.E 2566 (2023), as prescribed by the AG in virtue of Section 53, 54 (4) (5) and Section 5 -8, 86-88, 93, 95-97 of the State Audit Act B.E. 2561*

3. Citizen Engagement Strategies


3.1 Importance of Citizen Engagement

Role of citizens in detecting and reporting corruption	Benefits of engaging citizens in anti-corruption effort
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❑ Reporting on corruption to the authority or through the media<li>❑ Supporting training programmes<li>❑ Sensitization campaigns that aim to create a culture of integrity and zero tolerance for corruption	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❑ Enhanced Detection and Reporting<li>❑ Strengthened Accountability<li>❑ Increased Transparency<li>❑ Fostering a Culture of Integrity<li>❑ Improved Public Service<li>❑ Empowerment and Civic Participation<li>❑ Reduction in Corruption Levels


3. Citizen Engagement Strategies

3.2 Approaches to Enhance Citizen Engagement


State Audit Office of the Kingdom of Thailand @StateauditThai · Jun 8 ...
SAO launched a project to instill awareness of safeguarding public funds among local leaders. The project targets village headmen and sub-district chiefs in 4 provinces, empowering them to play an active role in leading the citizens to protect public funds.




State Audit Office of the Kingdom of Thailand @StateauditT · May 5, 2022 ...
AG @PrajuckB, DAG Sutthipong & the team gave special lecture to 600 govt highschool #Teachers nationwide as part of project under SAO strategy aimed to strengthen their role in teaching #Student to realize the importance of protecting the public funds and property. #AllHandsOnDeck



State Audit Office of the Kingdom of Thailand @StateauditT · Nov 22, 2021 ...
Happening now
SAO & King Prajadhipok's Institute organize the 3rd public opinion forum at Udonthani to raise #awareness , collect feedbacks & expectations fr #stakeholders; media,youth,CSO,citizen,etc
Let every voice be heard!
#AllHandsOnDeck #INTOSAIP12 #BangkokDeclaration



State Audit Office of the Kingdom of Thailand @StateauditT · Nov 29, 2021 ...
Every voice matters!
SAO & King Prajadhipok's Institute organize the 4th public forum at Samutsongkram to raise #awareness & collect feedbacks fr #stakeholders;media,youth,CSO,citizens.
All Inputs will be analyzed & develop into activity & channel to collaborate w/ public.

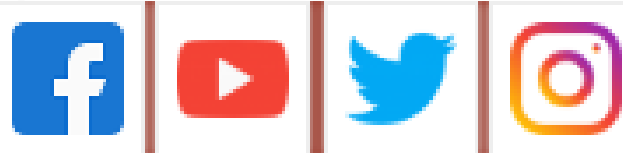


- **Educational campaigns and public awareness programs**
 - Project for Safeguarding Public Funds Among Local Leaders (Target Audience: Village headmen and sub-district chiefs in 4 provinces)
 - Special Lecture Project for 600 Government High-School Teachers Nationwide (Topic: Safeguarding Public Funds)
 - Co-Project Between SAI Thailand and King Prajadhipok's Institute (Activity: Public Opinion Forum to Raise Awareness and Collect Feedback and Expectations from Stakeholders, Media, Youth, CSOs, and Citizens)

3. Citizen Engagement Strategies

3.2 Approaches to Enhance Citizen Engagement

- Use of social media and digital platforms to reach a wider audience



- <https://www.audit.go.th/th/home>
- <https://www.facebook.com/audit.go.th>
- <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3UvyOgOESLaNXXbB1TnD5A>
- <https://x.com/StateauditThai>
- https://www.instagram.com/thailand_sao/



3. Citizen Engagement Strategies

3.2 Approaches to Enhance Citizen Engagement

- Use of Media Communication Approaches to reach a wider audience



Establishing the Press Secretary and Spokesman team at both headquarters and regional audit offices.

- the Press Secretary (PS) responsibilities include:
 - Coordinating monthly press briefings
 - Ensuring accurate and timely dissemination of audit findings
 - Addressing media inquiries and clarifying audit reports

3. Citizen Engagement Strategies

3.2 Approaches to Enhance Citizen Engagement



- Community outreach initiatives and partnerships with Anti-Corruption agencies and CSOs



4. Building Trust in Reporting Systems

4.1 Challenges in Building Trust

- Public perception of government and reporting systems
- Issues of anonymity and protection for whistleblowers

Building trust in reporting systems is crucial for effective anti-corruption efforts. However, challenges such as fear of retaliation, mistrust in authorities, and limited public awareness often deter citizens from reporting corruption.

The first step to addressing these concerns was to understand the issues better. SAI Thailand engaged in a comprehensive review effort covering stakeholders, roles, engagement methods and previous efforts. This work resulted in a strategic plan implemented in 2019. Key focus areas of the plan are communication and transparency.

4. Building Trust in Reporting Systems

4.2 Strategies for Building Trust

- Ensuring transparency and accountability in the reporting process
- Implementing robust protection measures for whistleblowers
- Providing feedback and updates to reporting citizens on the status of their complaints.

5. Notable Examples of Effective Citizen Corruption Reporting

5.1 Examples of Successful Citizen Corruption Reporting



Source: <https://www.thaipbs.or.th/news/content/340750>

One notable example is the audit of overpricing in the procurement of fitness equipment by Bangkok Metropolitan Administration.

This case was brought to light by the STRONG Anti-Corruption Club of Thailand, which reported it on their Facebook page. The report gained considerable public attention and led SAI Thailand to conduct an audit.

5. Notable Examples of Effective Citizen Corruption Reporting

5.2 Impact and outcomes of these initiatives



Source: <https://www.thairath.co.th/news/local/2255630>

Another example of the power of citizen engagement is seen in reports from various media outlets and social media platforms, which exposed potential corruption in the procurement of solar-powered 'Kinnaree' sculpture lamp posts by the Racha Thewa Subdistrict Administrative Organization (SAO) in Samut Prakan. Public concerns have been raised over irregular installations in dense areas, overpriced contracts, and potential favoritism toward private firms.

As a result, numerous tips from citizens nationwide regarding the misuse of public funds surfaced. In response, SAI Thailand investigated nearly 80 cases involving the procurement of sculpture lamp posts, solar panels, and LED lighting. The findings have been submitted to the National Anti-Corruption Commission (NACC) for further inquiry and prosecution of those responsible.

6. Conclusion



The impact of SAI Thailand's citizen engagement initiatives has been significant, empowering individuals to take an active role in protecting public funds. These efforts have created a sense of responsibility among citizens, who now see themselves as auditors. When they witness inefficiencies or misuse of public funds, they feel compelled to report it, either to the public or to the relevant authorities.

This outcome highlights the effectiveness of citizen reporting, as it not only uncovered corruption but also strengthened public confidence in their ability to make a difference. These initiatives have cultivated a culture of accountability, where citizens are more vigilant and committed to safeguarding public funds.

THANK YOU

State Audit Office of the Kingdom of Thailand