

matter of security, but also an important component of the process of restoring citizens' trust in Ukrainian statehood and establishing the rule of law in wartime.

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ANTI-CORRUPTION STRATEGIES IN SINGAPORE: A MODEL FOR EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE

Singapore is widely recognized as one of the least corrupt countries in the world, consistently ranking among the top performers in global governance and transparency indices. Its success is attributed

to a comprehensive, multidimensional strategy combining strong political will, robust legislation, an empowered anti-corruption agency, merit-based governance, preventive measures, and societal intolerance for corruption.

Corruption undermines democratic institutions, distorts economic development, and erodes public trust. While many states struggle to control it, Singapore demonstrates a rare case of sustained success. Since its independence in 1965, Singapore has built a governance system rooted in discipline, transparency, and effective law enforcement. Today, the country serves as a benchmark for anti-corruption efforts worldwide.

The cornerstone of Singapore's anti-corruption system is the Corrupt Practices Investigation Bureau (CPIB), established in 1952. Unlike agencies in many other jurisdictions, CPIB operates directly under the Prime Minister's Office but has the authority to investigate any public official, including ministers. This arrangement ensures a balance between oversight and operational independence [1].

CPIB is granted wide investigative powers, including the ability to examine bank accounts, require financial statements, and detain suspects. Importantly, Singapore's political leadership—both historically and today—has consistently allowed CPIB to function without interference, making it a genuine watchdog rather than a symbolic institution.

Singapore's legal system reinforces strict accountability through the Prevention of Corruption Act (PCA). The PCA criminalises both giving and receiving bribes in public and private sectors and applies even when corrupt transactions occur outside Singapore's territory. Penalties include heavy fines and imprisonment [2, 3].

In addition to the PCA, laws such as the Corruption, Drug Trafficking and Other Serious Crimes (Confiscation of Benefits) Act allow authorities to trace and confiscate illicit gains. The severity and clarity of these laws create a powerful deterrent effect [3].

Singapore maintains one of the most professional and well-paid civil services globally. Competitive salaries reduce incentives for bribery, while strict recruitment standards and performance evaluations ensure integrity and competence. This meritocratic approach also minimizes political patronage and nepotism, which are major corruption drivers in many countries.

Singapore's anti-corruption model is not limited to enforcement. Prevention plays an equally significant role. Key preventive tools include:

Transparent public procurement with digital oversight systems;

Mandatory integrity training for civil servants;

Guidance for businesses, such as CPIB's PACT (Singapore's anti-corruption compliance guide);

Open data initiatives, improving government accessibility;

Public education campaigns promoting zero tolerance for corruption;

These measures create an ecosystem where corruption is difficult to conceal and socially unacceptable.

Political will is often identified as the decisive factor behind Singapore's success. From the earliest years of state-building, the government treated corruption as a threat to national survival. Prominent cases — including investigations involving high-ranking officials — demonstrate that no individual is above the law. At the societal level, corruption is strongly condemned. Public trust in institutions remains high, reinforcing compliance and reporting.

In conclusion, Singapore proves that corruption can be controlled when strong institutions, clear laws, preventive measures, and political commitment are combined. The Singapore model illustrates that successful anti-corruption policies require more than just punitive measures — it requires a holistic system built on transparency, professionalism, and societal norms that value integrity. For countries seeking to improve governance, Singapore offers an effective and adaptable blueprint.

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