Reports in Schools

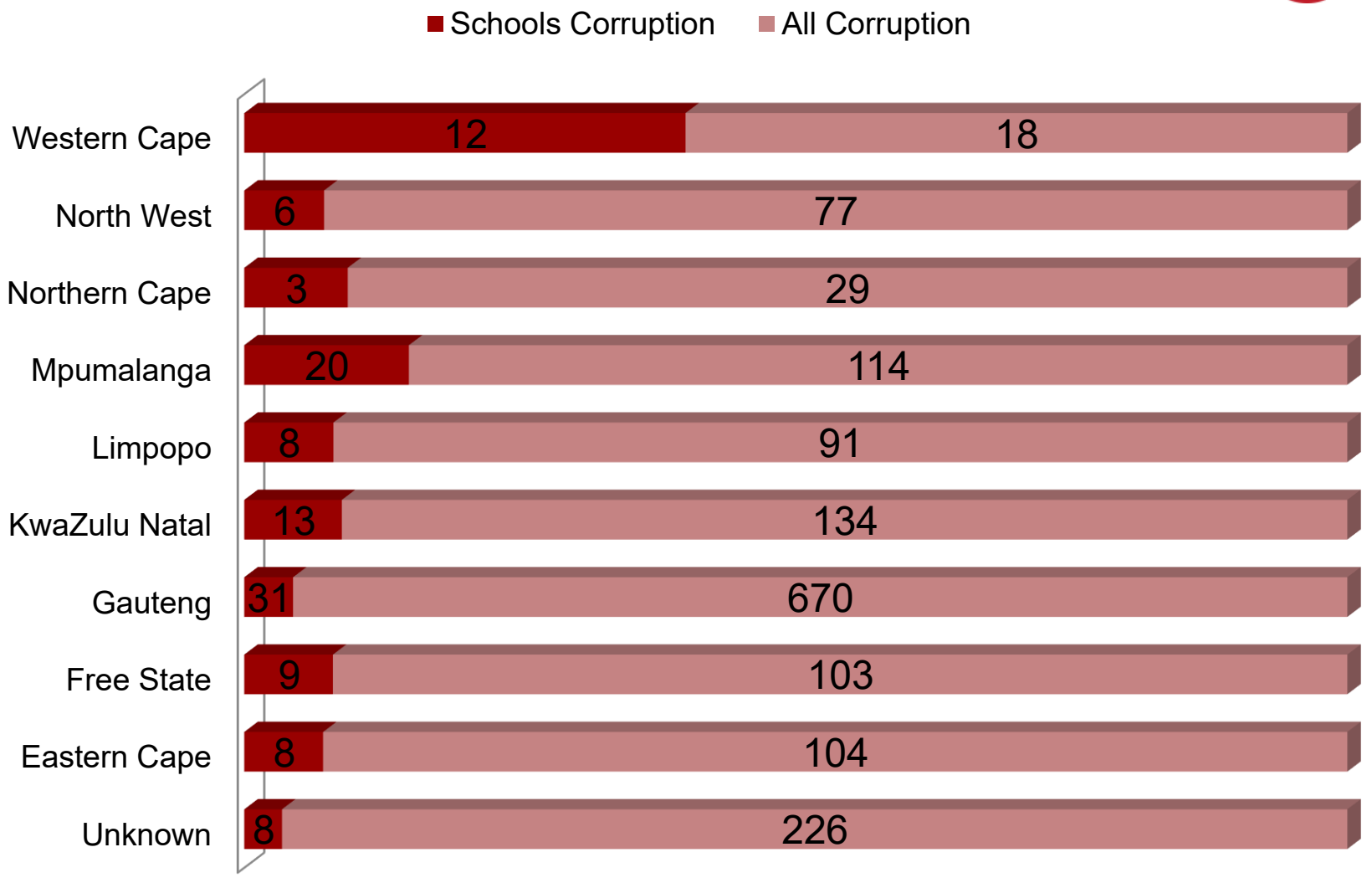
CORRUPTION WATCH

GENERAL TRENDS

- Education accounts for 12.6% of all corruption reports received by Corruption Watch between January 2012 and April 2013
- This presentation focuses on the 118 reports of corruption in schools
- Large numbers of reports received since announcement of focus on schools
- Disproportionately large numbers from Western Cape and Mpumalanga
- Majority of reports are local in small towns (52.5%)

GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION

Geographic Distribution - Schools Corruption relative to all Corruption reports



TYPES OF CORRUPT ACTIVITIES

corruption watch

Embezzlement of Funds

1. Reporters claim the involvement of school principals
2. These funds may have been allocated for specific projects which do not materialise or may be funds allocated to the schools by provincial departments

Corruption in Procurement

1. Alleged conflict of interest on the part of staff members at schools (principals are implicated in most reports)
2. Procurement contracts of supplies, maintenance work, building or renovations to school property are given to family and friends of SGB members and principals

TYPES OF CORRUPT ACTIVITIES

SGB Maladministration

1. Allegedly, SGBs are not making financial statements available to parents, either because they do not exist, or because SGBs refuse to provide this information
2. Seen as indicative of the fact that the financial matters of the school are being mismanaged, and that corruption is taking place by reporters

Corruption in Employment

1. Bribing officials for employment at schools
2. Teachers supposedly drawing salaries when they are absent from work for an extended period of time without explanation
3. Teachers are said to be engaged in full time remunerative work outside the school - it is assumed that permission has not been sought from relevant authorities

ISSUES RAISED BY STAKEHOLDERS

The inadequate training of SGB members

1. While the Act makes provision for elected SGB members to be trained, interviewees noted that often training does not speak to the challenges that schools face

Financial management of schools

1. Interviewees pointed to a lack of understanding of general financial and auditing principles as well as access to auditing resources in the preparation of annual financial statements and budgets by members of the SGB
2. Principals and SGBs were not well informed or aware of the Public Finance Management Act

Monitoring of schools by provincial departments is insufficient

1. The majority of reports received by Corruption Watch indicated that they had previously reported their allegation of corruption to the Provincial Department, but the complaint had received no attention
2. Lack of feedback from the provincial department once a corruption issue has been reported

Investigations by departments take long or don't occur

1. Interviewees viewed the lack of action and follow up on behalf of the Department as a contributing factor to the continuance of corruption in schools

PROPOSED CO-OPERATION

corruption watch

- We will provide the department and other stakeholders with regular analyses of our reports plus reports received by other hotlines

- We will provide public education to learners as part of a youth directed programme enabling learners/youth to understand the content and impact of programme

- Prioritisation of department action in those cases where we submit the fruits of detailed investigation that demonstrate a strong prima facie case