



ANTI-CORRUPTION COMMISSION

First Quarter Media Briefing

25th January 2024

Good morning, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Welcome to the 2023 End of Year Media Briefing of the Anti-Corruption Commission.

I wish to express our sincere gratitude for your presence at today's media briefing, a platform dedicated to discussing the tireless fight against corruption by the Anti-Corruption Commission. This session aims to shed light on ongoing initiatives dedicated to combating corruption while advocating for good governance, transparency, and accountability within our society. Throughout this briefing, we will address critical issues, showcase our progress, and reaffirm our steadfast commitment to fostering a corruption-free Zambia.

The Anti-Corruption Commission remains resolute in its commitment to curtailing corruption in our nation. We are wholly dedicated to executing our mandate, which encompasses investigating and prosecuting offenders, preventing and sensitizing the public on the negative effect of corruption. We will vigorously investigate and prosecute anyone found engaging in corrupt practices, irrespective of when the offence occurred, and we shall maintain our professionalism and impartiality in executing this duty.

Whilst the Commission is resolved to tackle the corruption scourge, this task requires concerted efforts from members of the public. I wish to commend the public for the numerous reports received and to encourage all of us to continue reporting any suspected cases of corruption to the Commission. This support is indispensable in aiding the Commission in rooting out corruption and bringing perpetrators to justice.

The Commission is also excited with recent pronouncements made by the President of the Republic of Zambia on legal reforms that will see conclusion of court cases on corruption and other financial crimes within five months. The Commission is currently engaged in consultations with several stakeholders to ensure effective application of the new rules and prosecution of cases within the stipulated timeframe.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me to provide you with an overview of the Commission's activities during the fourth quarter of 2023.

Corruption Prevention:

The Commission continued implementing programs and activities aimed at preventing corruption in both public and private institutions in line with its mandate. In the quarter under review, the Technical Working Committee concluded the process of finalizing the National Anti-Corruption Policy (NACP) and its Implementation Plan (IP). Subsequently, the Policy and IP were submitted for approval and have since been approved.

The Commission established **28** new Integrity Committees (IC) during the quarter. The ICs formed included; the National Anti-Terrorism Centre, National Forensic Authority, Health Professions Council of Zambia, Western Water and Sanitation Company, and 24 Town Councils. The Commission conducted a total of 18 Integrity Committee induction trainings with public institutions, aiming to impart IC members with requisite skills as integrity champions in their respective institutions.

Private Sector Engagements: A Mining Sector Symposium targeting various players in the mining sector was held in Kitwe, Copperbelt Province, under the theme “Stimulating Economic Growth by Enhancing Integrity in the Mining Sector.” The engagement is expected to lead to further partnerships and development of corruption prevention strategies specific to the mining sector.

Chief Executive Officer’s Forum: The Commission held the 2023 Chief Executive Officer’s Forum, at which CEOs from various IC institutions were in attendance. At this Forum, the performance of the ICs was reviewed, and experiences were shared, including successes and challenges.

Public Awareness

The Commission conducted various anti-corruption awareness activities targeting members of the public and stakeholders on the negative effects of corruption on the nation and how they can participate in curbing the scourge.

The following public awareness activities were conducted during the quarter:

The Commission conducted **171** sensitization programs which included: **60** Lectures, **15** radio programs, **3** TV program, **57** community talks, **2** public rallies, **36** school clubs meetings, and attended **4** traditional ceremonies. The Commission also distributed **19,457** Information, Education Communication (IEC) materials during various sensitization activities across provinces.

At the end of the quarter over **3,700, 000** people were reached with anti-corruption information through the above activities and through media programs run on various radio and television stations.

Investigations and Prosecutions:

During the quarter, the Commission received a total of **173** reports of suspected corruption. Of these cases, **136** reports contained elements of corruption and were authorized for investigations. Six (**6**) cases were authorized for Corruption Prevention Exercise, **3** cases were referred to relevant institutions for administrative action. The Commission also received **119** non-corruption reports during the quarter. A total of **98** cases were closed.

There were eighty-three (**83**) criminal cases before the courts of law. Of these cases, fifty-seven (**57**) were active criminal cases and twenty-six (**26**) were civil cases. The Commission secured three (**3**) convictions and also recorded two (**2**) acquittals. Eight (**8**) cases were pending delivery of judgment while there were twelve (**12**) criminal cases pending appeal.

Overview of 2023

During the year 2023, the Commission received a total of **1037** reports of suspected corruption. Out of these cases, a total of **463** were non-corruption related. While, 574 reports contained elements of corruption, only **541** were authorized for investigations. **11** reports were referred to relevant institutions for actions, **8** were complaints authorized for Corruption Prevention Exercise, **2** complaints were not authorized, and **12** were still under deliberation by close of the year.

The Commission closed a total of **183** investigation cases and recorded **38** arrests in 2023. The Commission also record **17** convictions and **5** acquittals in 2023.

The estimated value of assets or properties seized in the course of investigations stood at **K756,452,853**. By close of the year a total of **19** motor vehicles were forfeited to the State .

The Commission reached over **7,400,000** people with anti-corruption information through various sensitization programmes in form of lecturers, public rallies community talks, radio and TV programmes, traditional ceremonies, and school clubs meetings. Further, the Commission established **69** new Integrity Committees (IC) and conducted a total of **72** Integrity Committee trainings in 2023.

Conclusion:

Ladies and Gentlemen, the Commission will intensify the implementation of anti-corruption programs and continue to devise new and practical methods to address the corruption scourge in the country. The Commission remains indebted to the members of the public, all stakeholders, and the Government for the confidence that they continue to place in the Commission. It is the desire of the Commission to build on the successes already scored in the past to attain even greater success in 2024 and the years to come.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a circular scribble followed by a long horizontal line ending in a small loop.

Timothy Moono

HEAD CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS