



# **ANTI-CORRUPTION COMMISSION**

2023 THIRD QUARTER MEDIA BRIEFING

ON THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION

25<sup>th</sup> October, 2023

Ladies and gentlemen, I wish to thank you for joining us today for the third quarter media briefing on the fight against corruption. The briefing will shed light on our ongoing efforts to combat corruption, promote good governance, transparency and accountability in our society. The briefing will address the pressing issues, share our progress, and reaffirm our commitment to a corruption-free Zambia.

The Anti-Corruption Commission stands resolute in its mission to eradicate the scourge of corruption from our nation. The Commission is committed in executing its mandate of combating and preventing corruption and educating the public on its negative effects. The Commission will therefore vigorously investigate and prosecute cases of corruption, whether past, present or future corruption, and will remain professional and impartial in execution of this mandate.

The Commission believes in transparency and accountability as these elements are critical in the corruption fight. The Commission is therefore, committed to keeping the public informed on the activities and progress made in fighting this scourge. However, the fight against corruption can not be won without participation of members of the public. The Commission would therefore like to make this call on the public, to continue reporting all suspected cases of corrupt practices. This will help the Commission root out corruption in the country and deal with perpetrators.

### **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

In our ongoing battle against corruption, we are acutely aware of the insidious threat posed by sexual gratification (sextortion), another form of corrupt practices which appears to now be coming in the open, especially in colleges and higher institutions of learning. As you may be aware, in the space of two months the Commission has arrested three lecturers at the Copperbelt University over this crime and this has raised a lot of concern.

Sexual gratification not only preys on individuals' vulnerabilities but also erodes the very essence of trust and erodes the moral fiber within society. The Commission is determined to fight this immoral practice in its pursuit of curtailing this vice and holding perpetrators accountable for their actions. The Commission would like to urge victims of this form of corrupt practices not to shy away from reporting but to be courageous enough to bring culprits to book.

The Commission has also taken note of the latest Auditor General's report for the 2022 Financial Year which shows a reduction in cases involving misappropriation of funds. The Commission is pleased to note that measures put in place to seal leakages of public resources are taking effect and that Integrity Committees in public institutions need to be further strengthened in order to have zero audit queries in all these public institutions. However, the Commission is still studying the report and analyzing any cases that may relate to its mandate.

The Commission further wishes to put it on record that in the last two years, it has investigated an unprecedented higher number of corruption cases involving officials in the former government administration. Just last year, **82** arrests were made and there were **86** cases before the courts of law. In 2021, there were **73** cases before the courts of law and **28** arrests were made. Just this year, **38** arrests have been made so far and 147 cases are before the courts of law. In conducting these investigations, the Commission will use all available legal means to preserve evidence and this may be through restrictions and seizure of assets. I wish to assure all members of the public that the Commission will continue to carry out its mandate professionally and independently without any influence from any entities.

### **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Allow me to now highlight other activities that were undertaken by the Commission during the quarter under review.

### **Corruption Prevention**

The Commission continued to implement programs and activities aimed at preventing corruption in both public and private institutions in line with its mandate.

In the quarter under review, a National Anti-Corruption Policy (NACP) Stakeholder Validation meeting was held in collaboration with the Ministry of Justice and Transparency International Zambia (TIZ). The objective of the meeting was to get input on the draft NACP and Implementation Plan (IP). Finalization of drafting the NACP is currently underway.

The Commission established **14** new Integrity Committees (IC) during the quarter, among them include: Zambia National Public Health Institute (ZNPHI), Zambia Medicine Regulatory (ZAMRA), Western Provincial Administration and 11 Town Councils (Shibuyunji, Chisamba, Ngabwe, Mkushi, Chibombo, Kapiri Mposhi, Chitambo, Luano, Chipangali, Nyimba and Serenje).

The Commission conducted a total of **7** Integrity Committee induction trainings with public institutions. The trainings were aimed at imparting IC members with the requisite skills to carry out their roles as integrity champions in their respective institutions. Some of the institutions trained are: Ministry of Defense, ZNPHI, CCPC and ZEMA. Others are Ministry of Energy, ZRA FPPs, NATSAVE and ZAMMSA.

The Commission also conducted Corruption Prevention Exercises (CPEs) at the following institutions: Ministry of Community Development on Social Cash Transfer; Ministry of Local Government regarding the illegal sale of land in Misisi Compound; and, Chikankata Town Council regarding the manner in which a named politician was influencing the award of CDF contracts to his relatives.

The Commission also sat on various selection committees to enhance transparency in the processes and ensure laid down procedures were followed by the committees. Some of the prevention activities participated in this regard include;

- i. Monitored the negotiations for the PPP Concession Agreement and Project preparation of schedules of the CA on site for Sakania Border under the Ministry of Commerce and Trade.
- ii. Evaluation of pre-qualification for the supply and delivery of essential medicines, medical and surgical supplies, anti-malarial, anti-retroviral, renal supplies, blood commodities, anti-cancer, laboratory products, prosthetics and orthotics, HIV test kits, anaesthetics and dental health commodities under the Long Term (3 year) Framework Agreement for the Ministry of Health.
- iii. Evaluation for the tender for the supply, delivery and installation of Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) machines under the Ministry of Health.
- iv. Tender for supply, delivery and installation of medical equipment, office equipment and chairs for Ophthalmology Skills Lab at Levy Mwanawasa Medical University.

- v. Evaluation of bids for the completion of Chiefs Palaces countrywide under the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development.
- vi. The Commission observed the evaluation of various CDF Projects in Mporokoso, Luangwa, Chipata, Kasama, Chibombo, Namwala, Vubwi, Shibuyunji districts. Others include Lusaka,imba, Lumezi, Gwembe, Kitwe, Mbala, Ithezhi Tezhi, Livingstone, Chikankata, Kazungula Chasefu, Lubanseshi, Kalulushi, Luwingu, Chama, Mpulungu, Mpika, Lunte, and Mungwi districts.

The Commission has also taken note of governments intention to recruit teachers and health workers as announced recently. I wish to update the public that the Commission will be part of the recruitment process to ensure that the process is smooth and corruption free.

### **Public Awareness**

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

The following public awareness activities were conducted during the quarter:

- i. The Commission participated at the Zambia International Trade Fair (ZITF) in Ndola where more than **500** people visited the stand and information on corruption was shared with them.
- ii. The Commission participated at the Zambia Agricultural and Commercial Show in Lusaka and more than **400** people visited the stand and information on corruption was shared with them.
- iii. **11 Anti-corruption School Clubs** in three provinces were supported during the quarter and these included: Lusaka (9), Eastern (1) and Copperbelt (1). and orientation talks were given to support and revamp the school clubs as well as form new ones.
- iv. **Participated in four (4) traditional ceremonies** in Central, Copperbelt, Northern and Southern Provinces and in two **(2) exhibitions** held in Lusaka at

the showgrounds called the Pamodzi Carnival and in Choma at the National Registration for Passports and Citizenship Office.

- v. Radio and television programmes were also conducted on various media houses.

At the end of this quarter, over **200, 000** people were reached with anti-corruption information.

### **Investigations and Prosecutions**

Members of the Press, ladies and gentlemen,

During the quarter, the Commission received a total of **187** reports of suspected corruption. Of these cases, **157** reports contained elements of corruption and were authorized for investigations. One (**1**) case was authorized for a Corruption Prevention Exercise (CPE) and one (1) case was referred to a relevant institution for administrative action while others were still under deliberations. **17** arrests were also effected during the quarter.

During the quarter, **67** Criminal cases and **25** Civil cases were before the courts of law. The Commission in the quarter recorded **5** convictions and **2** acquittals and ten (**10**) cases were appealed.

I wish also to inform you that in the third quarter, the Commission received one (**1**) report of suspected corrupt practices from the Financial Intelligence Centre (FIC), thus making a total of six (**6**) cases received so far this year. All the cases are still under investigation.

### **Conclusion**

Ladies and Gentlemen, the Commission remains resolute in the fight against corruption and will do whatever it takes to bring to book all perpetrators of this crime. As we execute our mandate, we will always remain professional and impartial. Therefore, there will be no sacred cows in this fight. Let me take this opportunity to warmly appeal to members of the public to be vigilant and report any act of corruption.

Remember, it is your duty to safeguard the much-needed resources for economic development of our nation.

I thank you.