



**SPEECH BY HIS EXCELLENCY MR. HAKAINDE HICHILEMA
(READ BY HOME AFFAIRS MINISTER- HON JACK MWIMBU)
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA
AT THE COMMEMORATION OF
INTERNATIONAL ANTI-CORRUPTION DAY
MULUNGUSHI INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE CENTRE- KK WING

SATURDAY 9TH DECEMBER 2023**

- HER WORSHIP THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF LUSAKA;
- CABINET MINISTERS PRESENT;
- MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT;
- MEMBERS OF THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS;
- SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS;
- THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVE AND UN RESIDENT COORDINATOR;
- THE ANTI-CORRUPTION COMMISSION BOARD CHAIRPERSON
- THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE ANTI CORRUPTION COMMISSION
- REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE PRIVATE SECTOR, CIVIL SOCIETY AND THE CHURCH;
- MEMBERS OF THE PRESS;
- DISTINGUISHED GUESTS;
- LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

It is my pleasure stand before you today, as we commemorate the 2023 United Nations International Anti-Corruption Day. Your presence here is a testament to the significance you attach to the fight against corruption, as well as the crucial role that good governance plays in fostering inclusive development. This year's International Anti-Corruption Day carries the theme: ***"UNCAC at 20: Uniting the World Against Corruption."***

This theme is particularly significant, as it marks the start of our journey to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the United Nations

Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC), the world's foremost global anti-corruption instrument. UNCAC was adopted in 2003, uniting countries in recognition of the principles of good governance, accountability, and political commitment. Zambia proudly signed this convention on the 11th of December 2003 and acceded to it on the 7th of December 2007, underscoring our nation's commitment to the fight against corruption.

In the spirit of this commemoration, it is essential to reflect on the recent strides we have made in the fight against corruption since 2021. As you are aware, my government took office in August 2021, and from the outset, we declared a war on corruption, adopting a zero-tolerance stance. This commitment was not merely rhetoric; it has been translated into substantial actions and results.

Our fight against corruption has been methodical and professional, making corruption an unattractive endeavour for those who may wish to engage in it. We have pursued past, present, and future corruption comprehensively and inclusively. This campaign has been characterized by a non-political hand, devoid of vengeance and retribution. This government is, fundamentally, holding those who held public office accountable to the people of Zambia.

To expedite the resolution of corruption cases, we have introduced new strategies, including the establishment of fast-

track Economic and Financial Crimes courts. This measure ensures that law enforcement agencies can quickly conclude cases and take remedial action as determined by the courts.

Moreover, we are actively pursuing the recovery of assets stolen through corruption and related crimes. These assets will be returned and redirected to key social sectors, such as education and healthcare, uplifting the lives of our people.

In the pursuit of these goals, my government has granted the Anti-Corruption Commission the authority to expand its operational presence in Zambia. The Commission has spread its operations to 12 additional districts in Zambia. Furthermore, we have increased the budget allocation for the Commission in 2023 to enhance its capacity to discharge its mandate efficiently and effectively.

However, the fight against corruption is a shared responsibility that extends to all levels of society. We implore citizens to report suspected misconduct in the management and distribution of resources to law enforcement agencies. Together, we can ensure that corruption finds no refuge in our nation.

In addition to these measures, my government has taken a proactive stance on reviewing the National Anti-Corruption Policy. This initiative aims to develop a new policy that will offer national guidance on strategies and programs to combat corruption effectively. We are working diligently to involve

various sectors of society, ensuring that the fight against corruption is inclusive, with all citizens informed of their role and empowered to contribute to the struggle.

Our young people are crucial advocates for social change, and we are implementing strategies to engage them effectively. Civic education, including anti-corruption messages, has been incorporated into high school curricula to instil a culture of zero-tolerance for corruption in our youth.

My government has realized the importance of institutional commitment to the fight against corruption. We will continue to collaborate with institutions in the fight against corruption and encourage them to establish integrity committees. These committees are responsible for designing and implementing strategies to bolster internal control systems and eliminate corruption vulnerabilities within their respective institutions.

It is heartening to note that over 150 institutions have functioning integrity committees, making commendable progress in combating corruption within their spheres of operation. This serves as an example for other institutions to emulate.

In conclusion, my government remains unwavering in its commitment to fighting corruption and ensuring that no public official is allowed to engage in corrupt practices with impunity. We have taken numerous actions to eliminate corruption from various sectors of our economy. My government is committed to

working closely with the international community and cooperating partners to find common solutions to the global corruption problem. Government will not shield any public official found engaging in corruption. We are resolute in eradicating corruption from the civil service, public procurement system, government contract awards, and all sectors of our economy to ensure Zambia's prosperity.

I call on all Zambians to stand united against corruption by exposing corrupt acts in our communities, with the confidence that they will be protected by the law.

May God bless you, and may God bless our great nation, Zambia.

I Thank you