



ANTI-CORRUPTION COMMISSION

First Quarter Media Briefing

13th April 2023

Good morning ladies and gentlemen. Welcome to the first quarter media briefing of the Anti-Corruption Commission.

As you may be aware, the Commission is mandated to put in place mechanisms for the prevention of corruption in both public and private organizations; educate members of the public on the negative effects of corruption and enlist their support in the fight against the scourge; investigate cases of alleged corruption and prosecute these cases in the courts of law so that those found guilty are punished in accordance with the law. The ultimate goal is to ensure that corruption is not tolerated in our society and the levels of corruption are reduced to the barest minimum.

Over the past three months, the Commission has been working hard towards executing its mandate. Numerous corruption cases are under investigation while several other cases are before the courts of law. Today, we would like to share with you some of the highlights of our work during this period.

We believe that transparency and accountability are critical elements in the fight against corruption, and the Commission is committed to keeping the public informed about our activities and progress. We also encourage members of the public to come forward with any information or evidence they may have regarding corrupt practices, as this will help us in our efforts to root out corruption and hold those responsible accountable for their actions.

The Commission forecasts the year 2023 as a year of continued resolve and intensified efforts in combating corruption with a focus on asset tracing, recovery and prosecution of offenders. In this regard, the Commission will continue to build stronger partnerships with key stakeholders including other law enforcement agencies and increase collaboration in various anti-corruption efforts.

The Commission recognizes the strong support toward the fight against corruption by the Zambian Government. With the increased economic activity in various parts of the country arising from the increased Constituency Development Funds, the Commission has repositioned itself to ensure that it is present in these areas so that their procurement processes are undertaken correctly and value for money realized. To this end, the Commission is in the process of opening offices in 12 more districts across the country and these will include Ndola, Chinsali, Serenje, Nakonde, Chililabombwe, Sesheke, Petauke, Lundazi, Kawambwa, Mpulungu Kasempa, and Kabompo. This move will also ensure that Commission services become more accessible to members of the public away from the provincial centers.

The Commission further wishes to recognize the support of its cooperating partners and is particularly elated with the announcement made recently by the United States of America Vice- President Ms Kamala Harris that the United States will provide financial support amounting to US\$16million toward the fight against corruption and allied programmes. Ms Kamala Harris made this announcement during her maiden state visit to Zambia.

As you may also be aware, the Commission has made eighteen arrests in the matter in which it is investigating alleged abuse of office against officials from the Ministry of Finance. Investigations have revealed that officials from the Ministry of Finance paid themselves allowances on fictitious activities from around 2018 to 2022 causing government to lose millions of Kwacha. Investigations in this matter are on-going.

Further, the Commission in conjunction with Transparency International recently released the 2022 Bribe Payers Index Survey Report. The survey aggregates incidences of bribe seeking behavior among public officers in the surveyed institutions. The report is critical as it assists in developing evidence based anti-corruption interventions. The Commission calls on surveyed institutions and all

other public institutions to ensure that they address corruption prone areas in order to reduce opportunities of corruption.

The Commission is confident that government's support and the assistance rendered by cooperating partners will further strengthen implementation of anti-corruption strategies and build the capacity of the ACC, as a lead anti-corruption agency, to effectively execute its mandate. We hope you our partners will continue supporting the fight against corruption with the same commitment as the year continues to unfold.

Ladies and Gentlemen, allow me now to give you an overview of the Commission's activities in the fight against corruption during the first quarter of this year.

Corruption Prevention

The Commission continued to spearhead the Integrity Committee Programme as it continued to be rolled out to various institutions across the country.

In the quarter under review, the establishment of Integrity Committees (IC) in both public and private bodies progressed well with institutions showing corporate will to form ICs in their respective institutions. The Commission conducted a total of **24** Integrity Committee induction trainings with public institutions, aimed at orienting the new members of the IC on their roles and to enable them to effectively institutionalize the prevention of corruption and other malpractices within their institutions. Some of the institutions trained are: State House; Zambia Medicines and Medical Supplies Agency (ZAMMSA); Ministry of Agriculture; National Prosecutions Authority (NPA); and, Energy Regulation Board (ERB).

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

- i. Observation of evaluation of various Constituency Development Fund (CDF) Projects at Lusaka City Council, Kalulushi Municipal Council, Gwembe and Choma Councils. Others are Kasama, Kitwe, Mazabuka, Mpongwe, Luwingu, Mporokoso, Mpika and Kalulushi Councils.
- ii. The Farmer Input Support Program (FISP) tender meeting for the supply of D-Compound for the 2023/2024 farming season.

Public Awareness

The Commission conducted various awareness activities targeting members of the public and stakeholders so that they are made aware of the negative effects of corruption to individuals and society and efforts being made in curbing the scourge.

The following educational activities were conducted during the quarter:

- i. Media workshops were conducted targeting media practitioners in four provinces which included Copperbelt, Southern, Lusaka and Northern Provinces.
- ii. Training of civil society organization leaders on the Copperbelt and Northern Province to enhance the dissemination of anti-corruption messages, as well as enlist their support and involvement in the fight.
- iii. 46 Lectures and talks were conducted across the country with two public rallies held in Kitwe.
- iv. Radio and television programmes were also conducted with various media houses.

At the end of this quarter, over **500,000** people are estimated to have been reached with anti-corruption information.

Investigations and Prosecutions

Members of the Press, ladies and gentlemen,

During the quarter, the Commission received a total of **113** reports of suspected corruption. Of these cases, **110** reports contained elements of corruption and were authorized for investigations. As such, some cases were referred to relevant institutions for administrative action while others were closed with no further action. **28** arrests were also effected during the quarter. As at close of the quarter, the Commission had **1,340** cases under investigations.

The Commission in the quarter recorded a conviction in the case of the former Development Bank of Zambia (DBZ) Managing Director, Samuel Bwalya who was sentenced to 15months imprisonment with hard labour in which he was charged with abuse of authority of office involving over K780,000.00.

At the end of the quarter **43** Criminal cases and **15** Civil cases were before the courts of law. One (**1**) case was appealed and no acquittals were recorded during the quarter.

So far, the total estimated value of properties restricted or seized whose cases are either in court or still under investigations is Four Hundred and Forty-Five Million, Five Hundred and Forty-Nine Thousand, Seventy-One Kwacha (**K445,549,071.00**).

Conclusion

Ladies and Gentlemen, 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 2023 and the years to come.

I thank you.

Timothy Moono

HEAD- CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS