



**SPEECH BY THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE HON.  
MULAMBO HAIMBE, SC, MP,  
DURING THE LAUNCH OF THE ONLINE ANONYMOUS  
WHISTLEBLOWER SYSTEM (OAWS)  
AT  
MULUNGUSHI INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE CENTRE  
LUSAKA, ON THURSDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2024 AT  
09:00 HOURS**

- **THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL ANTI-CORRUPTION COMMISSION, MR. THOM SHAMAKAMBA**
- **THE PERMANENT SECRETARY - MINISTRY OF JUSTICE**
- **SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS PRESENT**
- **INVITED GUESTS**
- **THE MEDIA**
- **LADIES AND GENTLEMEN**

IT IS MY PLEASURE AND HONOUR TO OFFICIATE AT THIS HISTORIC OCCASION, OF THE LAUNCH OF THE ONLINE ANONYMOUS WHISTLEBLOWER SYSTEM (OAWS) BY THE ANTI-CORRUPTION COMMISSION (ACC). GOVERNMENT HAS PLACED THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION TOP ON ITS AGENDA AND ONE WAY TO ACHIEVE THIS, IS BY ENSURING THAT ALL SUSPECTED CASES OF CORRUPTION ARE QUICKLY BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES AND ACTION TAKEN IN AN EFFICIENT AND TIMELY MANNER.

GOVERNMENT IS THEREFORE, ELATED WITH THIS INNOVATION BY THE ACC, WHICH WILL ENCOURAGE MORE PEOPLE TO GET INVOLVED IN THE ANTI-CORRUPTION FIGHT. THE GOVERNMENT IS ALSO GRATEFUL TO THE EUROPEAN UNION UNDER THE EU-TWINING PROJECT, FOR THE TECHNICAL SUPPORT RENDERED IN DEVELOPING THIS SYSTEM. THE LAUNCH OF THE ONLINE ANONYMOUS WHISTLEBLOWER SYSTEM, SHOWS THAT THE COMMISSION IS DETERMINED TO ENSURE THAT THE CORRUPTION COMPLAINT REPORTING SYSTEMS IS ENHANCED. THIS IS COMMENDABLE AND IT IS IN LINE WITH GOVERNMENT'S POLICY OF ZERO TOLERANCE TO CORRUPTION.

**LADIES AND GENTLEMEN**

WHISTLEBLOWERS AROUND THE WORLD PLAY A SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN CHALLENGING CORRUPTION, TRANSNATIONAL CRIME, AND ENVIRONMENTAL DESTRUCTION. THEY ALSO PLAY AN IMPORTANT PART IN FIGHTING OTHER UNETHICAL BEHAVIOR IN BOTH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS. WHISTLEBLOWERS ARE THUS, CRITICAL IN

ENSURING THAT ORGANIZATIONS AND PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS ASSUME THEIR RESPONSIBILITY TOWARDS SOCIETY AND LIVE UP TO PUBLIC EXPECTATIONS IN EXECUTING THEIR MANDATE.

THROUGH THEIR COURAGE AND WILLINGNESS TO REPORT WRONGDOING, WHISTLEBLOWERS HELP CREATE A CULTURE OF TRANSPARENCY, FAIRNESS AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN BUSINESS AND GOVERNMENT.

DESPITE WHISTLEBLOWERS BEING AMONG THE MOST USEFUL TOOLS FOR DETECTING CRIME, THESE INDIVIDUALS ARE OFTEN SUBJECTED TO RETALIATION FOR THEIR ACTIONS, ONCE THEIR IDENTITY IS DISCLOSED OR KNOWN. THIS RETALIATION CAN BE IN SO MANY WAYS INCLUDING: THREATS ON LIFE; DISMISSAL FROM EMPLOYMENT; HARM TO INDIVIDUALS, THEIR FAMILIES OR CLOSE ASSOCIATES; OR INDEED THREATS OR ACTUAL LOSS OF BUSINESS. THAT IS WHY WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTION IS SO VITAL. ACCORDING TO A 2016 ORGANIZATION FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT (OECD) REPORT, “WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTION IS THE ULTIMATE LINE OF DEFENSE FOR SAFEGUARDING THE PUBLIC INTEREST.”

IN 2003, THE CRUCIAL ROLE OF WHISTLEBLOWERS, AND THE NEED FOR WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTION, WAS RECOGNIZED AS A PART OF INTERNATIONAL LAW WHEN THE UNITED NATIONS ADOPTED THE CONVENTION AGAINST CORRUPTION (UNCAC). UNDER ARTICLE 32 OF UNCAC, IT BINDS ALL STATE PARTIES, TO WHICH ZAMBIA IS A PARTY, TO PROTECT WHISTLEBLOWERS. FURTHERMORE, SUPPORT FOR WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTION IN INTERNATIONAL LAW CAN ALSO BE SEEN IN THE AFRICAN UNION CONVENTION ON PREVENTING AND COMBATING CORRUPTION UNDER ARTICLE 5.5.

AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL, ZAMBIA AS A PARTY TO THESE INTERNATIONAL LAWS, HAS ALSO DOMESTICATED THE PROTECTION OF WHISTLEBLOWERS THROUGH THE PUBLIC INTEREST DISCLOSURE (PROTECTION OF WHISTLEBLOWERS) ACT NO. 4 OF 2010.

THE LAW PROVIDES FOR THE PROTECTION OF WHISTLEBLOWERS IN BOTH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS AGAINST INTIMIDATION, HARASSMENT, DISMISSAL, SUSPENSION, DEMOTION AND BEING TRANSFERRED AGAINST THE EMPLOYEE'S WILL, TO MENTION JUST A FEW.

**LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,**

ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT PROTECTIONS FOR WHISTLEBLOWERS, IS THE NEED TO PROTECT THEIR IDENTITY BY ENSURING THAT REPORTS ARE MADE IN CONFIDENCE OR ANONYMOUSLY. HENCE, THE LAUNCH OF THIS ONLINE ANONYMOUS WHISTLEBLOWER SYSTEM. THE SYSTEM HAS BEEN SPECIFICALLY DEVELOPED TO CURE THE CHALLENGE THAT MANY WHISTLEBLOWERS WORLD OVER FACE. THIS ONLINE SYSTEM PROTECTS THE IDENTITY OF WHISTLEBLOWERS IN LINE WITH INTERNATIONAL STANDARD OF PRACTICE. THIS IS CRITICAL, AND GOVERNMENT IS ALIVE TO THE FACT THAT MOST WHISTLEBLOWERS SHUN TO BLOW THE WHISTLE FOR FEAR OF REPRISALS AND VICTIMIZATION AT WORK ONCE THEY ARE IDENTIFIED BY THE SUPERIORS.

I AM RELIABLY INFORMED THAT THE SYSTEM THAT WE ARE LAUNCHING TODAY, GUARANTEES WHISTLEBLOWERS WITH HIGH LEVELS OF DATA SECURITY, CONFIDENTIALITY, REAL TIME COMMUNICATION AND FEEDBACK. THROUGH THIS SYSTEM, WHISTLEBLOWERS WILL BE ABLE TO BLOW THE WHISTLE ANONYMOUSLY WITHOUT BEING IDENTIFIED OR SEEN BY ANYONE. THE SYSTEM IS SECURE TO SUCH AN EXTENT THAT NOT EVEN AN OFFICER FROM THE ANTI-CORRUPTION COMMISSION WILL BE ABLE TO KNOW WHO HAS REPORTED A MATTER THROUGH THIS SYSTEM. THAT'S HOW LOCKED THIS SYSTEM IS AND THE POWER OF TECHNOLOGY.

**LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,**

ALLOW ME TO HIGHLIGHT SOME OF THE ADVANTAGES OF USING THIS ONLINE ANONYMOUS WHISTLEBLOWER SYSTEM. ONE OF THE ADVANTAGES IS THAT, THE WHISTLEBLOWER HAS THE LUXURY OF

USING THEIR OWN GADGET IN THE COMFORT OF THEIR HOME OR OFFICE AND MAKE A REPORT TO THE COMMISSION ON ANY SUSPECTED CORRUPT PRACTICES. ONCE THAT REPORT IS MADE, THE SYSTEM WILL GENERATE A REFERENCE NUMBER OR TRACKING NUMBER FOR THE WHISTLEBLOWER. WITH THIS REFERENCE OR TRACKING NUMBER, THE WHISTLEBLOWER WILL BE ABLE TO USE IT TO INTERACT AND MAKE FOLLOW UPS ON ANY PROGRESS RELATED TO THEIR REPORT IN SUBSEQUENT LOG-INS ON THE PLATFORM. AS SUCH, THE WHISTLEBLOWER STILL USE THE REFERENCE NUMBER TO LOG-IN, CHECK ON PROGRESS OR ASK QUESTION RELATED TO THEIR SUBMISSION OR INDEED ADD MORE INFORMATION TO THEIR REPORT.

THE BENEFITS OF HAVING A CLEAR AND EASY-TO-USE ONLINE ANONYMOUS WHISTLEBLOWING REPORTING SYSTEM CANNOT BE OVER EMPHASIZED.

**LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,**

IN CONCLUSION, THE SYSTEM THAT WE ARE LAUNCHING TODAY, WILL ONLY HAVE IMPACT IF MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC USE IT. BY REPORTING SUSPECTED CASES OF CORRUPTION, THE PUBLIC IS THEN CONTRIBUTING TO BUILDING TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY AND FURTHER PROMOTING INTEGRITY IN OUR SOCIETY. TOGETHER, WE CAN STRENGTHEN THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION, BUILD PUBLIC TRUST AND CONFIDENCE AND ABOVE ALL, MAKE OUR NATION CORRUPTION FREE.

I NOW DECLARE THE ONLINE ANONYMOUS WHISTLEBLOWER SYSTEM OFFICIALLY LAUNCHED.

**I THANK YOU ALL.**