



**ANTI-CORRUPTION  
COMMISSION**

**SECOND QUARTER MEDIA BRIEF**

**DATE: 27<sup>th</sup> July 2023.**

**Members of the Press,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I wish to welcome you all to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Media Briefing on the activities of the Anti-Corruption Commission undertaken in the second quarter of this year towards the fight against corruption in Zambia.

Let me once again echo the Commission's desire to have a Zambian citizenry engaged in the fight against corruption. As a Commission we believe that curtailing corruption is not just about punishing the corrupt. Indeed, prosecution of corrupt individuals is necessary to demonstrate that corruption cannot be tolerated and that it is an undesirable crime in society. However, it is equally important that citizens should refrain from engaging in corrupt practices. We need to live above board and ensure that all our interactions are not laced with corruption but integrity. The Commission will therefore not relent in discharging its mandate without fear or favour.

The Commission is elated with the executive decision made by His Excellency the President Mr. Hakainde Hichilema to remove from office former Luapula Provincial Minister Hon. Derrick Chilundika and the eventual arrest of everyone involved in the illegal mining of Sugilite. This demonstrates the strong political will by Government to fight past, present and future corrupt practices. This is as it should be so that anyone contemplating of engaging in corrupt practices will have to think twice. The premium on corruption has been raised and we will ensure that those that engage in graft are investigated, arrested, prosecuted and jailed. Corruption should not be tolerated in whatever form it manifests itself.

## **Ladies and Gentlemen**

As you are aware the Commission has been investigating public officials at the Ministry of Finance and National Planning which resulted in the arrest of **20** officials for making payments for fictitious activities and theft of public funds. Those arrested included former Auditor General Dr. Dick Sichembe, the Accountant General, and two Deputy Auditor Generals. A few weeks ago, the Commission effected an arrest on the Permanent Secretary at the same Ministry of Finance and National Planning Mr. Mukuli Chikuba. He has been charged with multiple offences involving over K2,000,000.00. The offences include Abuse of Authority of Office, Willful Failure to Follow Applicable Procedure and Theft by Public Servant contrary to the laws of Zambia. Mr. Chikuba has since been released on bond and he is expected to appear in court soon.

In addition, the Commission has also arrested the Director of Internal Audit at the same Ministry Mr. Francis Ngwenya. Mr. Ngwenya has been charged with the offences of Abuse of Authority of Office, Willful Failure to Follow Applicable Procedure and Obtaining money by false pretenses involving K1,044,366.11 in form of allowances contrary to the laws of Zambia. Mr. Ngwenya has since been released on Bond and he is expected to appear in court soon.

Still on this matter, you may wish to note that the Commission has been receiving requests from some Ministry of Finance officials to pay back their illegally obtained funds. The Commission has been analyzing these requests and may grant them in accordance with Section 80 of the Anti-Corruption Act No. 3 of 2012. There is nothing sinister about allowing the officials to pay

back the funds as it is provided for in the law. However, the said officials have obligations to meet such as providing a voluntary and full disclosure of the illegally obtained funds.

The Commission has also taken note of the latest Trends Report released by the Financial Intelligence Centre (FIC). The Commission has been analyzing the matters that are contained in the report and strategizing on those cases that relate to the mandate of the Commission. However, I wish to inform you that in the second quarter, the Commission actually received one **(1)** report of suspected corrupt practices from the FIC. The Commission earlier in the first quarter of this year received four **(4)** reports from the FIC. As such, the Commission has received a total of five **(5)** cases from the FIC so far and all the cases are still under investigation. The Commission will continue collaborating with the Financial Intelligence Centre on any other new cases that may arise.

## **Ladies and Gentlemen**

Allow me to give you an overview of the Commission's other activities in the just ended 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter of 2023.

## **Corruption Prevention Activities**

The Commission has continued to build momentum in its efforts towards preventing the corruption scourge and putting in place transparent and accountable systems of governance. Some of the activities conducted include the facilitation of establishment of Integrity Committees and training.

Three new ICs in the quarter under review were established and these are at Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Office of the Vice President and Chinsali Municipal Council in Muchinga Province.

You may be aware that during the quarter under review, the Secretary to Cabinet launched an Integrity Committee (IC) Handbook which is aimed at equipping IC members with the required knowledge in executing their roles. The Handbook has since been shared with the various Integrity Committees countrywide.

The Commission also sat on a number of government selection committees with the aim of enhancing transparency in the processes and ensuring that laid down procedures were followed. For instance, the Commission observed the evaluation of various CDF Projects in Mungwi, Kanchibiya, and Shiwangandu Districts, including Lusaka.

### **Public Education Activities**

The Commission also stepped up outreach programs through Public Education with a view to break down entrenched mindsets that corruption is a norm and incontestable. The Commission conducted various sensitization programmes in the form of lectures, radio programmes, community talks, and public rallies in which over **3 million** people were reached. Further, the Commission held a Youth Anti-Corruption Festival for Copperbelt schools at which over **50** schools competed in various categories that included drama performances, essay writing, singing, fine art, and debate.

## **Investigations and Prosecutions**

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

During the last quarter, the Commission received a total of **294** reports of suspected cases of corruption.

Out of these cases, **152** reports **did not** have elements of corruption and as such advice was given to all those that provided the information on how best to pursue the matters.

However, **142** reports **contained** elements of corruption and of these reports **135** were authorized for investigations. However, **7** reports did not have sufficient details of a corruption offence to warrant investigations but were either referred to relevant institutions for administrative action or complainants were advised on other course of action to take.

The Commission recorded **10** arrests country-wide during the quarter bringing the total to **38** arrests since January. The Commission also recorded **8** convictions, and **1** acquittal.

## **Conclusion**

It is the Commission's desire that the public own the fight against corruption by getting directly involved in reporting corruption and influencing others to desist from engaging in corrupt practices. Corruption remains as one of the

major problems affecting effective service delivery and infrastructure development. Public and private officials should be allowed to continue distorting our nations' economic development through corrupt practices. We therefore all need to play a part in rejecting this vice and reporting all suspected cases of corruption. This will not only contribute to fostering integrity in public service delivery but also build trust in the operations of government.

Thank you.

**Timothy Moono**

**HEAD-CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS**