



**ANTI-CORRUPTION
COMMISSION**

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PRESS RELEASE

**ACC ACTING DG IMPLORES ON AU MEMBER COUNTRIES TO ENACT
WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTION LEGISLATION**

Anti-Corruption Commission Acting Director-General Monica Mwansa has said an effective whistleblower mechanism is a necessary and powerful tool in combatting corruption and Whistleblower protection is therefore a fundamental requirement.

She said when a whistleblower mechanism is well designed and implemented, it encourages individuals within organizations or systems to report corrupt practices, unethical or illegal practices without fear of retaliation.

Mrs. Mwansa was speaking, Friday, when she made a virtual presentation on 'Effective Whistleblower Protection Mechanism: A Critical tool in the fight against Corruption' during the 8th Africa Anti-Corruption Dialogue of the African Union Advisory Board Against Corruption held in Arusha, Tanzania.

She said Whistleblowers around the world play a powerful role in challenging corruption, transnational crime, and environmental destruction.

'They also play a major role in fighting other unethical behavior in both public and private institutions. Whistleblowers are critical in ensuring that organizations and public institutions assume their responsibility towards society.'

She said in the process of whistleblowing, individuals face a number of challenges that range from reprisals and retaliation, legal suits, financial strain arising from loss of

employment, personal threats, harassment and social stigma as they are viewed as traitors. These also culminate into emotional and psychological stress.

She said arising from the above challenges, whistleblower protection has been recognized both at international, continental and region level that it is a fundamental requirement and should be legislated by nations across the globe.

'The United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) provides a global framework for addressing corruption and highlights the importance of protecting whistleblowers as part of its anti-corruption strategy. Article 33 of the UNCAC specifically provides for the protection of whistleblowers.'

'The African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption provides for whistleblower protection under Article 5.'

Mrs. Mwansa said Zambia, as a party to these international laws, has domesticated the protection of whistleblowers with the enactment of the Public Interest Disclosure (Protection of Whistleblowers) Act No. 4 of 2010. She said the law provides for disclosure of information and the protection of whistleblowers in both public and private sectors.

She said efforts are currently under way to strengthen the law in order to provide adequate protection of whistleblowers. She added that the promotion of whistleblower protection under these international laws and domestic legislation aims to strengthen international anti-corruption efforts, making it safer for individuals to report corruption.

She said when countries effectively implement these protections, they foster an environment where transparency and accountability thrive, making whistleblowing an essential element in global anti-corruption initiatives.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'TIMOTHY MOONO', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

TIMOTHY MOONO

HEAD - CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS