



ANTI-CORRUPTION COMMISSION

Media Briefing

19th February 2026

Good morning ladies and gentlemen,

I welcome you all to this media engagement to highlight the activities of the Anti - Corruption Commission.

We have decided to engage with you as we always do because we realise the very important role that you play in the fight against corruption by exposing wrong doing, inform citizens and hold leaders accountable.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The Anti- Corruption Commission of Zambia remain committed to professionally fight this heinous crime of corruption whether past, present or future. There is a growing perception that the law enforcement agencies especially the ACC is selectively targeting individuals allegedly affiliated with the opposition parties. This notion is unfounded and could not be further from the truth. Individuals currently being investigated or appearing before the Courts or indeed serving custodial sentences have been subjected to the due legal process following which they have been convicted.

The ACC operates independently with accountability to the people of Zambia. Each step that we take in the discharge of our functions is regulated by the law. For a start the ACC is established as an investigative agency under Article 235 of the Constitution of Zambia. Its mandate and functions are spelt out under section 6 (1) and (2) of the Anti-Corruption Act No. 3 of 2012 as

- (a) prevent and take necessary and effective measures for the prevention of corruption in public and private bodies.
- (b) initiate, receive and investigate complaints of alleged or suspected corrupt practices, and, subject to the directions of the Director of Public Prosecutions

(c) adopt and strengthen mechanisms for educating the public to respect the public good and public interest

Apart from these laws Zambia is a party to several international and regional treaties and conventions like the United Nations Convention Against Corruption commonly referred to as UNCAC, the African Union Convention on the Prevention and Combating of corruption and the Southern Africa Development Community Protocol Against Corruption. You may wish to know that Zambia has domesticated these international conventions in the Anti-Corruption Act itself which is based on these standards. We are part of global efforts to fight corruption so our roles and processes are aligned with these commitments. Other than the Constitution and the Anti-Corruption Act, the ACC relies on several other pieces of legislation in the execution of its duties like the Public Interest Disclosure (Protection of Whistleblower) Act No.4 of 2010 which allows members of the public to report corruption cases in a manner that guarantees anonymity, meaning they are protected from having their identity known. Another piece of legislation is the Forfeiture of Proceeds of Crime Act No. 19 of 2010. Under the Forfeiture of Proceeds of Crime Act No. 19 of 2010, the commission has an option to go after property which is corruptly acquired through a conviction-based forfeiture or non-conviction-based forfeiture. In a conviction-based forfeiture, under Section 10 of the Act, once an accused person has been convicted by the court, the prosecutor applies to the court for an order for the illegally acquired property to be forfeited to the state.

In a non-conviction-based forfeiture application under Section 31 of the Act, an application is made to the court targeting property reasonably suspected to have been obtained illegally. Once the court is satisfied that the property is tainted an order is then made for the property to be forfeited to the state.

That being said, I wish to reiterate that the Anti-Corruption Commission remains committed to fighting this heinous crime of corruption regardless of who/where and when it occurred and based on evidence.

Anyone charged will have their day in court, the Judiciary decides the outcome and not the ACC. Our role is to investigate, meaning once a complaint is lodged, we gather facts, interview witnesses, examine documents and only proceed once a probable case has been established. The laws we use are the Laws Zambia have given themselves. Most of these laws are 2010, 2012 laws. We cannot cherry pick which laws will apply. Individuals currently serving custodial sentences or appearing before the courts have been subjected to the legal process and have either been convicted or are being tried by competent courts for offences which are recognized by our statutes.

At this juncture, I wish to highlight the Commission's activities and achievements.

CORRUPTION PREVENTION

Through its Corruption Prevention function, the Commission continued to strengthen institutional capacity to combat corruption across public and private institutions by establishing Integrity Committees (ICs) in line with the National Policy on Anti-Corruption (NPAC). The establishment of ICs enables institutions to develop internal mechanisms to prevent and combat corruption. The Commission recognises that ICs are critical in strengthening systems and procedures to prevent maladministration and corruption. So far, a total of **272** ICs have been established in public institutions. A Chief Executive Officers' Forum was convened, to review the performance of their respective Integrity Committees, and also providing an opportunity to recognize public institutions that continue to demonstrate integrity and accountability in their operations. Awards presented to individuals and

institutions highlighted commitment to ethical governance and the practical work of Integrity Committees across sectors.

The Commission also participated in **436** procurement committees nationwide, including Constituency Development Fund procurement committees, to promote fairness, openness and adherence to established procedures. The Commission further held a Private Sector Symposium targeting stakeholders in the construction industry to combat corruption within the sector.

PUBLIC EDUCATION

The Commission intensified its outreach programmes through the Public Education function to challenge entrenched perceptions that corruption is normal or inevitable. Sensitisation activities included lectures, community engagements, exhibitions, radio and television programmes and interactive meetings with anti-corruption school clubs. Through these initiatives, more than four million people have been reached.

A notable highlight is the launch of the “Character is Destiny” initiative, a project that targets learners from primary to tertiary to catch them whilst they are young. The initiative aims to instill values of integrity and good character in young people and it represents a significant milestone in shaping a generation with zero tolerance towards corruption.

INVESTIGATIONS

The Commission received a total of **896** reports of suspected corruption in 2025. Of these, **493** were determined to be unrelated to corruption, and guidance was provided to complainants on how to pursue their matters through appropriate institutions.

Additionally, in the same year, **79** cases were referred to relevant institutions for administrative action, six (**6**) cases were investigated from the 2024 Auditor General's Report, and **11** cases were investigated from the 2024 Financial Intelligence Centre Trends Report. Further **20** cases were investigated relating to the administration of Constituency Development Funds.

I wish to state that from January 2026 to date, the Commission has received a total of **143** cases, of which **72** were corruption-related and **71** were non-corruption-related. Further, **41** cases were referred to other institutions for administrative action. The Commission is investigating a total of **23** cases arising from the 2025 Auditor General's Report and the Financial Intelligence Centre Trends Report.

The Commission recorded **47** arrests. Of these, **33** account for arrests made in 2025, while **14** account for arrests made so far in 2026.

Seven (**7**) of the arrested are officers from the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries for alleged corrupt practices. Investigations in this matter are ongoing.

NOTABLE HIGH-PROFILE INVESTIGATIONS CONCLUDED:

- i. **Investigations into allegations of abuse of authority of office against Solicitor-General Mr. Marshal Muchende have been concluded.** The investigations established that there was no link of bribery between the named officials and him. The matter is now closed.
- ii. **Investigations into alleged corrupt practices against some Zambia Army officials and DLS International Limited of Kenya have been concluded.** The case concerned the awarding of a contract worth 21.2 million USD by the Ministry of Defence for the supply of equipment for a level two (2) mobile hospital in the Central African Republic and the upgrade of Maina Soko Military Hospital. Investigations established that the equipment was supplied

and received by the Ministry of Defence and that upgrade of Maina Soko is at 95 percent completion. As such, the Commission has closed the matter.

- iii. **Investigations into allegations that the Copperbelt Provincial Minister Hon. Elisha Matambo possessed high value motor vehicles** reasonably suspected to be proceeds of crime have been concluded and the case has been closed.

Investigations established that the high value motor vehicles were not his but belonged to another person who was using Hon. Matambo's parking yard.

LEGAL AND PROSECUTIONS

Through non-conviction-based and conviction-based forfeiture proceedings, the Commission forfeited the following properties to the State:

- Cash in United States Dollars amounting to 390,350.00 (**Three Hundred and Ninety Thousand Three Fifty Dollars**)
- Cash amounting to ZMW 41, 425,499.00 (**Forty-One Million Four and Twenty Thousand Four Hundred and Ninety-Nine**)
- Landed properties worth ZMW 34,154,000.00 (**Thirty-Four Million One Hundred and Fifty-Four Thousand Kwacha**)

During the period under review, **153** cases were before the courts of law, comprising **122** criminal cases and **31** civil cases. The Commission secured **16** convictions and eight (**8**) acquittals. **23** new criminal matters commenced, six (**6**) pending delivery of judgment, five (**5**) discontinued, **16** pending appeal, and one (**1**) non-conviction forfeiture application has been instituted.

OTHER NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS

The Commission drafted three Cabinet Memoranda seeking approval for the following Bills: The Amendment of the Anti-Corruption Bill, the draft Asset Management Bill and the draft Declaration of Assets and Liabilities Bill. The Commission also prepared the zero draft of Regulations to the Anti-Corruption Act.

HIGH PROFILE CASES BEFORE THE COURTS OF LAW

The People versus Chrint Sichamba, Ndozo Lodge Limited and Mulozi Trading Limited.

The accused persons are charged with possession of property reasonably suspected to be proceeds of crime and tax evasion.

The People versus Charles Sipanje, former Permanent Secretary for Northern Province, and two others.

The accused persons are charged with willful failure to comply with applicable guidelines and corrupt acquisition of public property contrary to sections 34(2) and 34(1) of the Anti-Corruption Act No. 3 of 2012.

CONCLUSION

The Commission conveys its appreciation to Government, Civil Society Organisations, the media, members of the public and all cooperating partners for their continued support. The fight against corruption is a collective responsibility requiring the active participation of every citizen. Members of the public are urged to report suspected corrupt practices in their communities and workplaces through the available platforms including the Online Anonymous Whistleblower System. The Commission remains fully committed to strengthening collaboration and partnerships with all stakeholders to effectively combat corruption in all its forms.

I thank you.

Mrs. Daphne Pauline Soko Chabu

DIRECTOR GENERAL

ANTI-CORRUPTION COMMISSION