



**ANTI-CORRUPTION  
COMMISSION**

**2024 FIRST QUARTER MEDIA BRIEF**

**DATE: 19<sup>th</sup> April 2024.**

**Members of the Press,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

**Good morning,**

Let me begin by welcoming you all to the first quarter of 2024 media briefing. I wish to express my sincere gratitude for your positive response to the invitation. This is an indication of our strong relations that we have built over the years. It also signifies your commitment and support in the fight against corruption. The Commission acknowledges the critical role that you the media play in informing and educating members of the public on the ills of corruption as well as exposing those who engage in corrupt practices. We, therefore, commend you and urge you to continue on this trajectory so that together we can work towards attaining a corruption-free Zambia.

The Commission's focus in the first quarter of this year 2024 was to enhance corruption prevention measures and further improve corruption reporting mechanisms. To this end, the Commission recently launched a new and secure Online Anonymous Whistleblower System (OAWS). This is a landmark achievement and a major shift in the fight against corruption.

With this new anti-corruption reporting system, the Commission anticipates increased reports from members of the public, especially, those who were unable to blow the whistle for fear of victimization by their superiors and employers. The system is secure, convenient and easy to use. The introduction of this new corruption reporting system will also help create a culture of transparency and accountability in both public and private institutions as corrupt practices, maladministration, embezzlement, favouritism and other corruption crimes will be exposed.

The Commission, therefore wishes to call upon members of the public to utilize this system and report all suspected cases of corruption regardless of the individual or institution involved. You may wish to know that in just two weeks following the launch of this system, the Commission has so far received **50** corruption reports through the platform. This is very encouraging and commendable to members of the public.

However, those who wish to report corruption to us using the traditional ways for one reason or the other, are also encouraged to do so at our offices located across the country. In all instances, the Commission will continue to work towards the review of the Public Interest Disclosure (Whistleblower Protection) Act of 2010, in order to strengthen the legal protection of whistleblowers.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

You may also wish to note that the Commission has commenced the process of reviewing the Anti-Corruption Act No. 3 of 2012. This review has been necessitated by the need to align the Act with the provision of the Constitution. You may wish to know that the definition of '*Public Officer*' in the Constitution is not the same as the one obtaining in the subsidiary legislation, the Anti-Corruption Act. It is anticipated that the review will also put in place stiffer penalties for corrupt practices.

In addition, the Commission is also in the process of developing a draft Bill on Asset Declaration for all public officers. The Bill will play a crucial role in enhancing accountability of public officers and will facilitate the conduct of lifestyle audits. Those who serve in these public institutions have been given the responsibility to preside over the nation's resources and therefore, they need to be held in check so that opportunities of abusing public resources are reduced through such accountability mechanisms.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

The Commission recently launched a Report on the Evaluation of the Integrity Committee Programme which will help both public and private institutions to use the findings to strengthen the anti-corruption measures within their institutions. The Integrity Committee Programme which began in 2006, is one of the key initiatives in the fight against corruption through institutionalizing the fight against graft by streamlining of corruption prevention best practice policies and guidelines such as gift policies, conflict of interest policies, service charters. Since its inception, there are currently **211** institutions in public and

private sectors that have institutionalized the fight against corruption by establishing Integrity Committees in their respective organizations. Interestingly, the findings in the Evaluation Report of Integrity Committees has shown that the IC programme implementation has been satisfactory against the evaluation criteria of 'Relevance', 'Coherence', 'Efficiency', 'Sustainability' and 'Impact'. Further, the findings have revealed that individual experiences of corruption when seeking public services in various public institutions was low at about 10.3%. This is very encouraging, because it shows that the measures and policies that have been put in place to prevent corruption in the country is bearing fruits.

The Report also highlighted the challenges ICs are faced with and made recommendations on how some of the challenges could be addressed. Among the constraints included:

- i. The lack of funding for IC programs
- ii. The lack of permanent members of the Committees, especially in Local Authorities, as members were often transferred to other stations.

It is gratifying to note that the Secretary to the Cabinet Mr. Patrick Kangwa in launching the report made an undertaking to ensure that recommendations made to mitigate the challenges were implemented

### **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

During the beginning of this quarter, Transparency International released the Corruption Perception Index (CPI) and Zambia showed an improvement on the score four points, from 33 out of 100 in 2022 to 37 out of 100 in 2023. Subsequently, Zambia improved the global ranking by 18 places, from 116 in 2022 to 98 in 2023, signifying a positive trajectory in combating corruption. The Commission is delighted with the improvement recorded by the country on the CPI ranking. The improvements can be attributed to a number of factors that have contributed to the overall positive fight against corruption.

The Commission will continue to rigorously investigate and prosecute all corruption cases and undertake corruption prevention and public education programmes so that corruption is not tolerated. The Commission further calls for continued collaboration among government bodies, civil society organizations, the private sector, and citizens to build upon the successes reflected in the improved CPI score.

## **Ladies and Gentlemen**

Allow me now to give you an overview of the Commission's other activities in the just ended First Quarter of 2024.

## **Corruption Prevention Activities**

The Commission continued to implement programs and activities aimed at preventing corruption in both public and private institutions. During the quarter under review a Joint Committee Against Corruption, Smuggling and Undervaluation of Minerals comprising of the Anti- Corruption Commission, Ministry of Mines & Minerals Development and the Zambia Revenue Authority undertook tours of selected Border Ports to understand the mineral value chain process and identify areas that might be prone to corruption.

The team was taken through the process that facilitates the exportation of minerals in Zambia and the challenges that institutions involved in the process face for them to maximize the collection of revenue in the mineral value chain were highlighted. The Committee will soon submit its report on the findings so that interventions are taken to mitigate corrupt practices and increase the revenue benefit that is expected from Zambia's rich mineral resources.

The Commission also established 3 new Integrity Committees (ICs) at Solwezi Municipal Council, Ndola Teaching Hospital and Industrial Development Corporation (IDC). The Commission also conducted a total of 12 Integrity Committee induction trainings for the following institutions; Ndola Teaching Hospital, Kitwe Teaching Hospital, Energy

Regulation Board (ERB), Luapula Provincial Administration (Training for Focal Point Persons), Ndola School of Nursing and Ndola Biomedical School. Others are Health Professionals Council of Zambia (HPCZ), UTH Eye Hospital, Kalulushi Municipal, Kitwe City Council, National Anti-Terrorism Centre, Chingola Municipal Council, Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) and Teaching Service Council. The training workshops were conducted for both newly established ICs and old ICs that were having their new members trained. The trainings were aimed at imparting IC members with the requisite skills to carry out their roles as integrity champions in their respective institutions.

Other corruption prevention activities conducted are as follows:

- I. A presentation during the Sensitization workshop for prospective Bidders at Rural Electrification Authority (REA) was made.
- II. A preparatory meeting for integrity check on mineral ore export was held.
- III. A meeting with Ministry of mines Senior staff in order to understand the process for application, validation and issuance of mining rights was held.
- IV. A meeting at ZAMMSA to follow up on Pre-qualification tender evaluation for the supply and delivery of various medical commodities under the long term (3 years) framework agreement was held.
- V. A presentation to selected teachers from Southern, Lusaka and Central province on common practices in procurement was made.
- VI. A presentation to newly recruited staff under National Registration, Passport and Citizenship at Ministry of Home Affairs and Internal Security was conducted.
- VII. A sensitization to Ward Development Committees (WDCs) under Solwezi Municipal Council on corruption and integrity issues was held.
- VIII. A meeting with the Ministry of Local Government Permanent Secretary to discuss the selection of training institutions for the CDF Skills training bursaries was held.
- IX. A meeting with the Deputy-Divisional Traffic Officer for Northern Region concerning a joint operation on 'No Bribes but Fines' Campaign was held.

- X. Conducted a joint operation on 'no bribes but fines' campaign at Mbala Check Point and sensitization of taxi drivers on the importance of paying fines and not bribes in Mbala District.

Furthermore, the Commission also sat on various select committees to enhance transparency in the processes and ensure laid down procedures were followed by the committees. Some of the select committees participated in this regard include;

- I. Monitored various tender evaluation for the supply and delivery of drugs, equipment, implants, prosthetics, dental commodities including for supply of blood administration sets at ZAMMSA.
- II. Monitored a tender evaluation at ZICTA for the procurement, design and installation of 51 Communication Towers across the Country.
- III. Observed tender evaluation at the Ministry of Energy for the procurement of dead stock fuel for the new Lusaka Depot.
- IV. Monitored tender evaluation for procurement of various ICT Equipment under Ministry of Health-Global Fund and the tender for the construction of (9) district Health hospitals under Ministry of Health.
- V. Monitored and participated tender Evaluation for the Constituency Development Fund (CDF) Projects in 10 Town Councils
- VI. Observed negotiation meeting for tender evaluation for the procurement of country wide airborne geophysical services (Geological mapping) for Ministry of Mines and Minerals Development.
- VII. Monitored the recruitment exercise for the Nursing and Midwifery Council of Zambia.
- VIII. Part of Selection Board meeting to select officers to serve in various positions in the Local Authorities and also attended the Lusaka City Council selections board at Local Government Service Commission.

### **Public Education Activities**

Through its public education function, the Commission intensified its community outreach programme through sensitizations on radio programmes, exhibitions on public events,

lectures and workshops in which close to **one million** people were reached and **7,060** Information Education and Communication (IEC) materials were distributed. These outreach programmes are important for the public to own the fight against corruption for our country to develop.

The Commission also conducted a workshop in Kable for the development of anti-corruption content in audio and video for Early Childhood Education in collaboration with the Ministry of Education. Further, the Commission produced **39,000 IEC** materials in form of leaflets in English, Bemba, Tonga and Nyanja on the following topics: Promoting Transparency and Accountability; Forfeiture of Proceeds of Crime; Agriculture; and, Youths Participation in the Fight Against Corruption.

## **Investigations and Prosecutions**

During the first quarter, the Commission received a total of **417** reports of suspected cases of corruption. Out of these cases, **191** reports did not contain elements of corruption and were referred to other institutions and complainants were advised on how best to pursue the matters. From the 417 reports that were received, **226** reports contained elements of corruption and of these reports **170** were authorized for investigations. However, **56** reports did not have sufficient details of a corruption offence to warrant investigations after a thorough review. As a result, they were either referred to relevant institutions for administrative action or complainants were advised on other course of action to take.

The Commission recorded **12** arrests country-wide during the quarter and a total of **83** criminal cases and **27** civil matters were before court. **8** convictions were secured with 1 acquittal recorded and 2 appeals were lodged. By close of the quarter, **9** cases were pending judgement.

Further, the Commission seized **68** motor vehicles whose estimated value is **K41,120,000**. The seizure was made from various companies and individuals arising from investigations conducted. Several properties were also restricted and seized in the last

quarter whose estimated total value is **K25,000,000**. In addition, **25** other motor vehicles whose estimated value is **K20,000,000** were also forfeited to the State. These motor vehicles were recovered during the course of investigations and were forfeited to the State after the expiration of a Gazette Notice as no one came forward to claim them.

The Commission wishes to take this opportunity to assure all stakeholders that it has adjusted to the Court Rules under the new Criminal Court Procedure that requires the conclusion of cases within five (5) months. The Commission will work towards the speedy disposal of cases that are in Court so that justice is quickly dispensed.

## **Conclusion**

The Commission will not relent in its effort to fight corruption in the country. Corruption eats the moral fiber of society, affects the quality of service delivery in public institutions, erodes trust and disrupts national development. The Commission implores on everyone to desist from engaging in corrupt practices by simply resisting, rejecting and reporting suspected cases of corruption. Let us all embrace our National Slogan: “A Corruption Free Zambia Begins with Me”.

**I Thank you.**

A handwritten signature in dark ink, consisting of a stylized 'T' and 'M' followed by a long horizontal line.

**Timothy Moono**  
**HEAD - CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS**