



**ANTI-CORRUPTION
COMMISSION**

THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION IN ZAMBIA

2ND QUARTER PRESS BRIEFING

2022

The Board Chairperson, Anti-Corruption Commission

Distinguished Representative from Cooperating Partners

Representatives from the Civil Society Organizations,

Directors, Anti-Corruption Commission

Members of the Press,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me begin by warmly welcoming you all to this very first media breakfast engagement for the Anti-Corruption Commission. It is imperative that we should meet in this manner so that we begin to forge not only professional relationships, but get to understand and learn from each other's work demands and how we can work to serve each other better.

The Commission Board and Management are desirous to see to it that the media is kept abreast of the anti-corruption fight and that in turn the nation is correctly and accurately informed of the measures being taken to deal with this scourge. We are further aware of the necessity of flow of information to avoid or lessen misinformation which is easily perverted on social media.

We also note the challenges that the public has had in accessing the Commission through telephone services. In response to the Presidential directive to increase the number of Toll Free lines, the Commission is currently increasing the same from three (3) to nine (9) lines.

There is no doubt that Government has waged war on corruption and declared zero tolerance to corruption. This Policy directive is for the

Commission to implement. I therefore wish to re-echo the Commission's position that we shall do everything possible within our power to vigorously pursue any case of corruption that may have come to its attention. This includes cases that may have happened in the past, cases already under investigations and any cases in future that will come to our notice. We are not limited in time to acting against corruption. So, past, present and future corruption will be fought.

I wish to assure you that the Commission is equal to the task and will continue to restrict and seize properties suspected to be proceeds of crime and investigate them to their logical conclusion. Where there is evidence that a crime was committed, the Commission will not hesitate to prosecute these matters in the courts of law and to also ensure that properties or assets tainted with crime are forfeited to the state through available legal channels for the benefit of all Zambians.

This will be done in a fair, professional and impartial manner and within the confines of the law. The Commission is not a tool for victimization. It shall always be guided by the evidence that has been established during investigations.

The Commission is thus elated with the introduction of the Financial and Economic Crimes (Fast Track) Court and we hope to see timely disposal of cases. We have no doubt that this division of the Court is equal to the task. You may wish to know that nearly all of the corruption cases before court are being handled by this fast track court. We are therefore geared to see a swift disposal of these cases which will in-turn enhance the realization of justice.

Commission Operations in Second Quarter of 2022

Ladies and gentlemen,

Allow me to now give you an update on the operations of the Commission in the 2nd quarter of this year.

In the just ended quarter of 2022, the Commission continued to fully discharge its mandate. This mandate includes public sensitization; corruption prevention; investigations and prosecutions. The following were some the activities undertaken:

Public Education

Anti-Corruption awareness is critical in ensuring that the public is educated on what constitutes corruption, it's dangerous and negative effects on society and how they can be part of the fight against the vice. During the quarter, the Commission sensitized over **315,391** people countrywide through various programmes which included: lectures and talks, exhibitions and shows, radio and television programs; and workshops. The Commission will continue to take advantage of e-platforms in disseminating anti-corruption messages and engage the public on corruption matters.

Corruption Prevention

1. Three **(3)** new Integrity Committees (ICs) at the Police Public Complaints Commission, Infratel and National Health (NHIMA) were established. So far, the Commission has established **140** Integrity Committee in various work places.

2. Implementation of a Corruption Risk Assessment (CRA) at the Ministry of Health commenced.
3. The Commission participated in the 2022 Teacher Recruitment exercise. The Commission's involvement was for the sole purpose of enhancing transparency in the recruitment process.
4. In collaboration with the Teaching Service Commission, the Commission also participated in the recruitment of teachers who were being seconded for employment in Seychelles.
5. The Commission monitored the recruitment of the 11,276 Health workers countrywide. This involved analysing the Health Workers Data capturing process, orientation of the District Human Resource Management Committees (DHRMC), and participating in the shortlisting of applicants at district as well as provincial levels.
6. The Commission also monitored the management and implementation of Constituency Development Funds (CDF) countrywide. This involved holding meetings in constituencies to discuss anti-corruption collaborative efforts in the implementation and monitoring of the CDF.
7. The Commission was also part of a team of officials from the National Road Fund Agency (NRFA) Integrity Committee who undertook a trip to Zimbabwe to assist in the establishment of an Integrity Committee at that country's Road Fund. This was after the Zimbabwean Anti-Corruption Commission requested NRFA IC to share their experience during a training of IC counterpart members.

Investigations and Prosecutions

In the last quarter, the Commission received a total of **169** reports of suspected corruption. Out of these reports received, a total of **45** reports were non- corruption related, thus outside the Commission mandate. Advice on how best to pursue the matters complained against was subsequently provided.

Of the **169** cases, **124** reports contained elements of corruption and **94** reports were authorized for investigations while the remaining **30** reports did not have sufficient details of the corruption offence to warrant investigations to be conducted. Of these, two (**2**) cases were referred to relevant institutions for administrative action. The complainants in the rest of the cases were also advised accordingly.

By end of the quarter, the Commission concluded a total of (**163**) investigation cases. Six (**6**) arrests were also made country-wide. The Commission had ten **10** cases before the Courts of Law, one (**1**) case was pending judgement, one (**1**) case was pending appeal and one (**1**) acquittal was recorded during the quarter.

So far, the total number of investigated cases concluded this year is **188** out of **1,160** cases with **17** arrests effected. There were **35** cases before court and of these four (**4**) have been concluded resulting in three (**3**) convictions and one (**1**) acquittal. A total of **338, 984** people have been sensitized on corruption throughout the country.

Financial Intelligence Centre (FIC) Report

As you are aware the Commission has a Memorandum of Understanding with the Financial Intelligence Centre which facilitates the sharing of vital information. The Commission receives suspicious transaction reports which after assessment often culminate into an investigation.

In 2021, the Commission received a total of six **(6)** reports. In the first half of this year 2022, five **(5)** reports have so far been received. All these reports form part of the total cases under investigations.

Conclusion

I wish to assure all Zambians that the Commission is more determined to fight the corruption scourge and protect the resources of our country for the benefit of all. With your support and involvement, we shall win this fight. We shall not leave any stone unturned.

The Commission, therefore, wishes to call upon everyone to own this fight against corruption and take a step by directly getting involved in reporting any suspected case of corruption to the ACC and persuading others to desist from engaging in corrupt practices. We should all see corruption as an affront on our personal growth and the socio-economic growth of our country. It is a cost to everyone and should not be tolerated.

I thank you.