



**ANTI-CORRUPTION
COMMISSION**

THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION IN ZAMBIA

1st QUARTER PRESS BRIEFING

2022

Members of the Press,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I wish to welcome you all to this press briefing on the activities of the Commission undertaken in the first quarter of this year.

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. Bringing corrupt individuals to justice is necessary and also demonstrates that corruption is evil, an undesirable crime in society and cannot be tolerated. The Commission will therefore continue to discharge its mandate, professionally, objectively or in a non-selective manner without fear or favor.

As the Commission arrests and prosecutes offenders, it reiterates Government's commitment to remain resolute in fighting and combatting the scourge as recently reaffirmed by the Republican President Mr. Hakainde Hichilema in his Presidential State of the Nation Address on 11th March 2022, when he declared a war against corruption and zero- tolerance toward the vice.

The Commission further notes the President's appointment of the Anti- Corruption Commission Board of Commissioners and the Director-General, subject to ratification by the National Assembly. These substantive appointments will enable the Commission with policy direction and leadership to respond to the urgent need to address the corruption scourge in Zambia.

The Commission has, however, strengthened its approach in tackling corruption through new strategies in its enforcement mechanisms which include applying both conviction- based and non-conviction-based forfeiture of proceeds of crime as well

as the restriction and seizure of any properties suspected to be ill-gotten wealth. This is expected to culminate into the increase in the recovery of funds and properties illegally obtained from the Zambians.

The Commission is also elated with the timely establishment by the Judiciary of the fast track court on the economic and financial crimes as its existence will enhance the timely dispensation of justice by speeding up trial of corruption cases.

Commission Operations in 1st Quarter of 2022

Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the end of 2021, the Commission received a total of **424** suspected reports of corruption. **186** were authorised for investigation and **103** cases were closed. The Commission recorded **36** arrests and **12** convictions countrywide.

In the just ended first quarter of 2022, the Commission continued to build momentum in its efforts towards public sensitisation, preventing the corruption scourge and putting in place transparent and accountable systems of governance. Notably are the following programmes:

1. The Commission, under the Corruption Prevention function, worked with the Ministry of Health in all stages of the recruitment exercise of health workers under the Global Funds Programme- COVID- 19.
2. The Commission is also part of the country-wide recruitment process of health workers.
3. The Commission has been working with the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development in sensitizing local government officials on adherence

to prescribed Constituency Development Fund Guidelines to reduce opportunities of corruption in management of the fund, and subsequently for its equal distribution within their constituencies.

With regard to Investigations, the Commission received a total of **306** reports of suspected corruption during the quarter. Out of these reports received, a total of **148** were non- corruption related. Therefore, advice was subsequently provided to all those that brought these reports that are outside the Commission's mandate on how best to pursue the matters complained against.

Of the **306** cases, **158** reports contained elements of corruption and **132** reports were authorized for investigations. Some reports did not have sufficient details of the corruption offence to warrant investigations to be conducted. As such, four (**4**) cases were referred to relevant institutions for administrative action. The complainants in these matters were also advised accordingly.

By the close of the quarter, the Commission concluded and closed a total of (**13**) investigation cases. Eleven (**11**) arrests were also made country-wide. The Commission had **61** cases before the Courts of Law and four (**4**) court cases were concluded resulting into two (**2**) convictions. There were six (**6**) cases pending judgement. There were no acquittals recorded in any case before Court in the first quarter.

It is also worth noting that during the last quarter, the Commission handed over to government a total of **ZMW 65, 333, 046** and **US\$ 57, 900** in recovered funds and forfeited to the State in a case of being in possession of suspected property reasonably believed to have been proceeds of crime against Margaret Chisela Musonda, alias Faith Musonda.

Status on some High Public Interest Cases

Allow me to also give you a brief status on some of the cases which have been in public domain and which some of you inquired on during the quarter:

1. Alleged possession of suspected proceeds of crime in form of a house at Kingsland City against Margaret Chisela Musonda, alias Faith Musonda. **Following her arrest, the Commission has come across additional information in this matter concerning the same Faith Musonda and this information has led to extended investigations.**
2. The case of the “48” Houses. A Senior Accountant at the Ministry of Finance Mr Loyana and his wife Mrs. Loyana, an Assistant Accountant at the Ministry of Works and Supply were jointly arrested and charged with two counts of corrupt practices involving concealment and possession of property valued at over K 37 million, properties reasonably suspected to be proceeds of crime. **The matter is before the Fast Track Court.**
3. The Case involving illegal exportation of Mukula logs. The Commission arrested Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) Former Chief Executive Officer Mr Mateyo Kaluba and Zambia National Service (ZNS) Director of Operations Maliwa Muwanei for abuse of authority of office; A Lusaka businessman, Ackson Tembo was also arrested in this same matter involving exportation of Mukula logs without following laid down procedure. **The accused persons are yet to appear before the Fast Track Court.**
4. Possession of property suspected to be proceeds of crime against Former Lusaka Province Minister Bowman Lusambo and his wife Nancy Lusambo. The duo

was arrested by the Commission and they are currently facing charges of being in possession of property reasonably suspected to be proceeds of crime worth \$378,000. **The matter is before the Fast Track Court and is coming up on 17th May 2022.**

5. Possession of property reasonably suspected to be proceeds of crime amounting to more than US\$539,000 against Patriotic Front Acting President Given Lubinda. **Mr Lubinda was arrested and charged with the subject offence and is expected to appear before the Fast Track Court on 21st April 2022.**
6. The Honeybee Case: The Zambia Medicines Regulatory Authority (ZAMRA) Director- General Bernice Mwale and Principal Regulatory Officer Brian Kabika were arrested and charged with Willful Failure to Comply with Applicable Law and Procedure. **The matter is before the Fast Track Court and it coming up for ruling on 27th April 2022.**
7. The Social Cash Transfer Case involving former Postmaster General McPherson Chanda, former Finance Director Best Mwaichi and former Director Operations Isaac Kamwimba who were arrested and charged with 13 counts of Theft by Public Servant. **The matter is in the Fast Track Court in Ndola. The accused persons were found with a case to answer and put on their defence which is commencing on 21st and 22nd April 2022.**
8. The arrest of former Ministry of Health Permanent Secretary Dr. Kennedy Malama and others involving the procurement of 50 ambulances. **The matter is before the Fast Track Court and is coming up on 12th May 2022 for plea and commencement of trial.**

9. The arrest of the Managing Director at Development Bank of Zambia (DBZ) Dr. Samuel Bwalya for alleged abuse of company financial resources which were used to pay for school fees both locally and abroad involving over K1 million. **The accused person is yet to appear before the Fast Track Court.**
10. Possession of properties reasonably suspected to be proceeds of crime against a Lusaka Businessman Emmanuel Mugala. This is in connection with possession of over 62 properties in various parts of Lusaka. **The suspect was arrested by the Commission and he is expected to appear before the Fast Track Court on 21st April 2022.**
11. Investigations into alleged possession and concealment of properties reasonably suspected to be proceeds of crime against former State House Press Aide Amos Chanda. **Investigations have reached an advanced stage.**
12. Seizure of properties worth 22.8 million Kwacha suspected to be proceeds of crime located in Lusaka's Chamba Valley area belonging to former Lusaka Province Minister Bowman Lusambo.

Investigations into this matter are on-going. Following the seizure, Mr Lusambo has not had any access to these properties from the time the properties were seized. If Mr Lusambo sneaks into the house, he will be committing an offence and will face the consequences.

In addition, the Commission working with the Department of National Parks and Wildlife (DNPWL) has examined the wild animals at Mr Lusambo's premises and found that the animals are unhealthy and need to be relocated to a more suitable environment. The wild animals include

seven (7) Impalas, two (2) Axis deer, two (2) Zebras, two (2) Puku and two (2) Waterbuck. The Commission is also still making efforts through his lawyers to avail him for questioning.

The Commission is also aware of some fake news item on Social media alleging that the Commission sent officers to South Africa in an effort to seize properties there suspected to be linked to Mr Lusambo. This story is false, a total fabrication intended to mislead the public and bring the name of the Commission into disrepute.

Conclusion

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is the Commission's desire that the public own the fight against corruption by getting directly involved in reporting all suspected corruption to the ACC and influencing others to desist from engaging in corrupt practices. Public and private officials should see corruption as an affront on socio-economic growth. It is a cost to everyone and should not be tolerated.

The Commission therefore wishes to appeal to members of the public with information of possession of any property reasonably suspected to be proceeds of crime to report to the nearest Commission offices. A reward will be given upon successful recovery of properties.

I Thank you.