

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT  
ON THE  
**ALLEGED CORRUPTION AT THE ANTI-CORRUPTION COMMISSION**  
BY  
**HER HONOUR THE VICE-PRESIDENT (MRS NALUMANGO)**

Madam Speaker, I wish to render a Ministerial Statement on a matter raised on the Floor of the House on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> July, 2024 by the Member of Parliament for Lumezi Constituency, Hon. Munir Zulu during the session on Urgent Matters without Notice.

Madam Speaker, in his question, Mr Zulu cited Dr O'Brien Kaaba, who is a Commissioner at the Anti-Corruption Commission and also a lecturer in the School of Law at The University of Zambia. Dr Kaaba is alleged to have issued a statement containing serious revelations of how corrupt the institution had become, and also that the institution that was supposed to fight and champion the corruption fight in this country was deeply divided between the board and its management.

Madam Speaker, let me respond by clarifying Government's position over the matter. You may wish to note that the New Dawn Administration has been very clear on the fight against corruption. That is to say that this is what we say past, current or present and future corrupt will be fought. This is the premise upon which we were elected into Office.

Hon. Member for Kalulushi, can you please give her time to deliver the ministerial statement.

This has been re-echoed countless times by the His Excellency, Mr. Hakainde Hichilema, President of the Republic of Zambia and indeed my Office on numerous fora. We have clearly stated that individuals engaged in corruption will face the consequences alone. Our resolve in the fight against corruption is demonstrated by the fact that we have instituted a number of measures in this regard. Let me highlight some of the key interventions:

*Revision of the Anti-Corruption Policy*

Madam Speaker, the New Dawn Administration revised the National Anti-Corruption Policy in 2023. The policy provides a framework for preventing and combating corruption in a comprehensive, coordinated and inclusive manner. We, therefore, remain fully committed to the principle of “Zero Tolerance to Corruption in all its forms. The Policy seeks to:

- (a) align the Anti-Corruption Act of 2012 to the Constitution as amended in 2016.
- (b) develop sub-sequential legislation for the declaration of assets and liabilities by persons holding public offices in accordance with article 263 of the Constitution as amended in 2016.
- (c) amend the Whistle-blowers Act to strengthen it in terms of the protection it offers to whistle-blowers.

#### *Strengthening institutional capacities*

Madam Speaker, the Government is committed to strengthening institutional capacities of all institutions involved in the fight against corruption. In this regard, support is being provided to the law enforcement agencies, the Judiciary and oversight institutions in terms of law reform and enhanced budgetary provisions.

#### *Establishment of the Economic and Financial Crimes Court*

Madam Speaker, to improve on the efficiency in handling corruption and other related crimes, Government in January, 2022, established the Economic and Financial Crimes Court (division of the high court) to hear and determine matters relating to economic and financial crimes and corruption. The cases are now expected to be concluded within five months.

#### *Safeguarding operational autonomy of oversight institutions*

Madam speaker, oversight institutions such as the office of the Auditor-General, National Assembly, Office of the Public Protector, Judicial Complaints Commission, Police Public Complaints Authority, Zambia Public Procurement Authority and the Attorney-General Chambers are all vital to the prevention and the eradication of corruption.

Madam Speaker, the Government is committed to ensure that these institutions operate independently to achieve their mandate. This is and has always been the commitment of the Government in the fight against corruption and it is delivering on it. These and other measures are a clear demonstration of Government's determination to deliver an accountable and corruption free country.

Madam Speaker, with regard to the alleged rift between management and the board at the Anti-Corruption Commission of Zambia (ACC), the Government regrets the current development at the institution. This is unfortunate and it should not be encouraged. This notwithstanding, I wish to start categorically that the New Dawn Administration is committed to upholding the tenets of good co-operate governance in all state institutions.

Madam Speaker, therefore, I have no doubt that the current perceived challenges the institution maybe facing will be resolved by following good co-operate governance practices and the constitution and other laws of Zambia.

Madam Speaker, I further wish to inform this august House that if there is any corruption at the ACC, the Government will deal with it within the confines of the law. I wish to reiterate that the New Dawn Administration is fully committed to the fight against corruption, and as such, it is the expectation of the UPND that ACC will carry out its mandate to fight corruption in an expeditious and transparent manner that instills public confidence. Further, the board and management will work as a team to carry out the objectives of the ACC.

Madam Speaker, in conclusion, I wish to indicate that the Director-General of ACC has since resigned, and the board dissolved. All I can say is that the Government wishes the Director-General and the board members well in their future endeavours.

I thank you, Madam.

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