



**PRESS STATEMENT ON THE APPOINTMENT AND SWEARING IN OF THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS MR. GILBERT A. PHIRI S.C. WEDNESDAY 22<sup>nd</sup> DECEMBER, 2022.**

*THE NATIONAL PROSECUTION AUTHORITY (NPA) IS HAPPY TO REPORT AND SHARE WITH THE PUBLIC THE USHERING IN OF MR. GILBERT PHIRI S.C AS THE 10<sup>TH</sup> DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS. IN THIS ROLE MR GILBERT A. PHIRI S.C IS THE CHIEF GOVERNMENT PROSECUTOR AND HEAD OF THE NATIONAL PROSECUTION AUTHORITY. WE BELIEVE MR. PHIRI S.C WILL PROVIDE THE NECESSARY LEADERSHIP TO OVERCOME THE CHALLENGES THE AUTHORITY HAS BEEN FACED WITH.*

1. THE AUTHORITY WISHES TO EXPRESS ITS GRATITUDE TO HIS EXCELLENCY, THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA, MR HAKAINDE HICHILEMA FOR HIS CONFIDENCE AND TRUST IN APPOINTING MR GILBERT PHIRI S.C TO THIS PUBLIC OFFICE. IT IS OUR BELIEF THAT MR PHIRI WILL MAKE THE ZAMBIAN PEOPLE PROUD IN THE EXECUTION OF HIS DUTIES
2. THE CHANGE OF LEADERSHIP HAS USHERED THE INSTITUTION INTO A NEW SEASON. A NEW SEASON HAS A TENDENCY OF TRANSFORMING ANY ENVIRONMENT. ADAPTING TO, AND EMBRACING CHANGE, IS WHAT ENSURES SURVIVAL.
3. IT IS EVIDENT THAT OVER THE YEARS THE PUBLIC'S PERCEPTION OF THE PROSECUTION SERVICE HAS HIT AN ALL TIME LOW. THIS HAS BEEN INFLUENCED BY MANY UNSAVOURY ACTIONS. NOW MORE THAN EVER THE NPA HAS TO ROBUSTLY WORK TO RESTORE THE PUBLIC'S CONFIDENCE AND IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT CORRECTIVE MEASURES ARE IMPLEMENTED IMMEDIATELY.

4. IN ORDER TO RAISE THE PUBLICS CONFIDENCE IN THE INSTITUTION THE AUTHORITY WILL COMPLETE THE AUTOMATION OF THE DOCKET AND CASE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM AND ROLL OUT THE SAME IN THE WHOLE COUNTRY. ALL DOCKETS WILL BE DIGITIZED UPON RECEIPT CREATING A FAILSAFE FOR LOSS OR DAMAGE. COMMITTALS TO THE HIGH COURT WILL BE DONE IN AN EFFICIENT AND SPEEDY MANNER WITH COMMITTALS TO THE HIGH COURT BEING EFFECTED AT FIRST APPEARANCE.
5. THROUGH THE GENDER BASED CRIMES DEPARTMENT THE AUTHORITY WILL UPSCALE ITS EFFORTS TO EMBRACE A MULTI- SECTORIAL VICTIM CENTRED APPROACH IN ENSURING THAT VICTIMS OF SUCH CRIME ACCESS JUSTICE IN A MANNER THAT DOES NOT RE TRAUMATISE THEM. IN THIS VEIN THE AUTHORITY HAS CONTINUED TO WORK WITH THE ONE STOP CENTRES UNDER THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH, THE VICTIM SUPPORT UNIT UNDER THE ZAMBIA POLICE SERVICE, AND THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL SERVICES AMONG OTHERS.
6. THE ASSET FORFEITURE DEPARTMENT IS KEY IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION AND FINANCIAL CRIMES AND WILL HENCEFORTH COMMIT TO AN AGGRESSIVE AND ROBUST ASSET RECOVERY CAMPAIGN TO ENSURE THAT CRIMINALS DO NOT BENEFIT FROM ILL BEGOTTEN GAINS. PROCEEDS OF CRIME WILL BE TAKEN AWAY FROM CRIMINALS AND RETURNED TO INDIVIDUAL VICTIMS OR THE PEOPLE OF ZAMBIA, AS THE CASE MAY BE. THE FULL WEIGHT OF THE FORFEITURE OF PROCEEDS OF CRIME ACT WILL BE BROUGHT TO BEAR ON ALL CRIMINALS WITHOUT FEAR OR FAVOR TO ENSURE THAT CRIME DOES NOT PAY AND LEAVE THE CRIMINALS WITH NOWHERE TO HIDE. IF IT IS A PROCEED OF CRIME OR TAINTED PROPERTY, THE LONG ARM OF THE LAW WILL TAKE IT, "TITENGA!"
7. THE APPEALS DEPARTMENT WILL TAKE A LEAD ROLE TO COLLABORATE WITH THE KEY PARTNERS SUCH AS THE JUDICIARY AND CORRECTIONS SERVICE TO ENSURE THAT;
  - I. ALL MATTERS IN WHICH NOTICES OF APPEAL HAVE BEEN FILED ARE DISPOSED OF TO CLEAR THE BACKLOG;
  - II. ALL MATTERS PENDING SENTENCE BY THE HIGH COURT ARE DISPOSED OF AND,

- III. ALL MATTERS IN WHICH THE SENTENCE IMPOSED BY THE SUBORDINATE COURTS REQUIRE CONFIRMATION BY THE HIGH COURT ARE DISPOSED OF.
8. THE TAXATION AND FINANCIAL CRIMES DEPARTMENT WILL BE POSITIONED TO BE AT THE CUTTING EDGE OF FINANCIAL CRIMES INCLUDING CORRUPTION, MONEY LAUNDERING, CYBER FRAUD AND ILLICIT FINANCIAL FLOWS. THE DEPARTMENT WILL ENHANCE COLLABORATION WITH VARIOUS STAKE HOLDERS, BOTH LOCALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY, IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION AND OTHER FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC CRIMES.
9. WE SHALL, AS A MATTER OF URGENCY, PROMULGATE A NEW CODE OF ETHICS AND CONDUCT WHICH SHALL SET OUT THE GENERAL PRINCIPLES PROSECUTORS SHOULD ADHERE TO AS THEY MAKE DECISIONS ON CASES. FURTHER, A COMPLAINTS MECHANISM WILL BE SET UP AS AN ACCOUNTABILITY MEASURE TO ENABLE MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND VICTIMS OF CRIME TO REPORT COMPLAINTS RELATING TO THE NPA, INCLUDING ALLEGATIONS OF IMPROPER CONDUCT OF STAFF. CITIZENS WILL ALSO BE AT LIBERTY TO EXPRESS THEIR POSITION AT DECISIONS MADE BY THE AUTHORITY WHICH WILL BE PROMPTLY BE REVIEWED
10. IN THIS REGARD, THE DPP HAS REVIEWED THE IMMUNITY AGREEMENT GRANTED TO FORMER KONKOLA COPPER MINES LIQUIDATOR MILINGO LUNGU PURSUANT TO THE POWERS VESTED IN HIM BY ARTICLE 180 OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA AND SECTION 8 OF THE NATIONAL PROSECUTION AUTHORITY ACT NO 10 OF 2010 OF THE LAWS OF ZAMBIA. THE SAID AGREEMENT BEING A DECISION TO NOT INSTITUTE CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS AGAINST THE SAID MILINGO LUNGU **HAS BEEN REVOKED**
11. IN CONTINUING TO BUILD THE PUBLIC CONFIDENCE, THE NPA WILL SET UP A PUBLIC RELATIONS UNIT TO ENGAGE WITH THE CITIZENRY BETTER. A SERVICE TOLL FREE NUMBER SHALL BE SET UP TO ANSWER TO QUERIES AND ASSIST CITIZENS ACCESS SERVICES THAT ARE DUE TO THEM.

12. THE NPA AND THE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES – ARE IN THIS TOGETHER. IT IS ONLY BY WORKING COLLABORATIVELY THAT EITHER OF US CAN ACHIEVE MEANINGFUL RESULTS. OUR OPERATIONAL AREAS ARE DISTINCT, AND OUR INDEPENDENCE IS IMPORTANT, BUT OUR COLLECTIVE GOAL – OF BRINGING CRIMINALS TO JUSTICE – MEANS THAT OUR CHALLENGES, AND OUR VICTORIES, ARE SHARED.
13. ONE CRUCIAL AREA OF COLLABORATION IS EARLY INVESTIGATIVE ADVICE WE WILL SUPPORT THE INVESTIGATIVE AGENCIES TO BUILD THE STRONGEST POSSIBLE CASES FROM THE OUTSET. THIS APPROACH WILL ALLOW THEM TO DIRECT THEIR EFFORTS IN THE MOST EFFECTIVE DIRECTION AND WILL HELP TO MAKE SURE OUR PROSECUTORS HAVE THE INFORMATION AND THE EVIDENCE THEY NEED TO MAKE ACCURATE AND TIMELY CHARGING DECISIONS. THIS HAS LONG BEEN AN EFFECTIVE APPROACH IN CORRUPTION RELATED CASES. WE WANT TO BUILD ON THIS AND BE BETTER AT PROVIDING THIS SUPPORT MORE WIDELY ACROSS OTHER CRIMES.
14. THE PEOPLE OF ZAMBIA WANT CRIMINALS BROUGHT TO JUSTICE, VICTIMS AND WITNESSES TREATED WELL AND THE PUBLIC MADE SAFER. WE PLAY DIFFERENT ROLES IN ACHIEVING THAT, BUT WE ARE ALL, THE PUBLIC INCLUDED, STRIVING FOR JUSTICE.
15. THE WORDS OF MARTIN LUTHER KING JR, THOUGH SPOKEN ON 28 AUGUST 1963, AT THE LINCOLN MEMORIAL ON THE WASHINGTON, D.C. NATIONAL MALL, STILL AGITATE AND INSPIRE WHEN HE SAID:
16. *“WE ARE NOW FACED WITH THE FACT THAT TOMORROW IS TODAY. WE ARE CONFRONTED WITH THE FIERCE URGENCY OF NOW. IN THIS UNFOLDING CONUNDRUM OF LIFE AND HISTORY, THERE “IS” SUCH A THING AS BEING TOO LATE. THERE IS NO TIME FOR APATHY OR COMPLACENCY. THIS IS A TIME FOR VIGOROUS AND POSITIVE ACTION.”*



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MRS CHALI MBEWE-HAMBAYI  
NATIONAL PROSECUTION AUTHORITY SPOKESPERSON