



NON-GOVERNMENTAL GENDER ORGANISATIONS' COORDINATING COUNCIL

" Building Solidarity For Women's Empowerment "

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PRESS RELEASE

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ACC ABATING CRIME BY SHIELDING OWNER OF MAGICAL 48 HOUSES

The Non-governmental Gender Organisations' Coordinating Council (NGOCC) welcomes the reopening of investigations into the ownership of the magical 48 housing units in Lusaka suspected to have been built using public resources.

The announcement by the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) that they had discontinued investigations on account of inability to track the owners of the housing units in question is unacceptable to the Zambian people. This is a serious indictment on our leaders in the ACC to ensure that transparency and accountability is upheld on matters of public resources. NGOCC therefore demands that a thorough investigation is carried out and the public should be informed of its outcome.

It would be unfortunate for the ACC to be viewed as abating a possible incident of crime in this regard and hence demanding for a more decisive approach to the matter. There is clearly no way that 48 housing units can acquire land, and build themselves without an owner or owners. It is not enough for a public interest body like the ACC to leave the public in suspense especially at this point in time when reports of corrupt tendencies in the public service are the order of the day.

It is a fact that corruption diverts public resources into the pockets of a few individuals advancing their self-interests, much to the detriment of the most vulnerable in society. This is also given that majority citizens are barely struggling to put food on the table and literally unable to meet the cost of other basic social services like quality health services, education requirements, clean water and sanitation facilities, among others.

NGOCC wishes to call upon the ACC to take their mandate seriously by comprehensively fighting all forms of graft on behalf of the majority citizens.

We wish to also call upon the Republican President Mr Edgar Chagwa Lungu to exercise the needed leadership through decisively taking steps to root out corruption especially that which occurs at high levels of our governance system.

ISSUED:

For/NGOCC

Engwase B. Mwale

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR