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**SPEECH BY MR. MAURICE NYAMBE, TI-Z EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR, AT THE SIGNING CEREMONY OF THE TI-Z – ACA
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON 4TH May 2023**

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Salutations

On behalf of Transparency International Zambia (TI-Z) and the Alliance for Community Action (ACA), I would like to welcome you all to this very important event, where we are signing a Memorandum of Understanding between the two organisations.

As many of you here will know, TI-Z's mission is to actively contribute to Zambia's sustainable development by promoting a culture of integrity, good governance, and zero tolerance to corruption at all levels. We are cognizant of the fact that this mission is big and cannot in all honesty be achieved by one single organisation or entity. In that regard, we have always been alive to the need for concerted efforts in order to give ourselves a better chance at winning the fight against corruption and promoting good governance in Zambia. It is that belief that underpins our desire to collaborate with like-minded civil society organisations such as the ACA in a bid to contribute to the greater quest for accountability, integrity and good governance at all levels of Zambian society.

This MoU is therefore important for several reasons. First, it will enhance our

collective efforts to combat corruption in Zambia by providing support to victims of corruption and ensuring that perpetrators are brought to justice. Secondly, it will promote transparency, accountability, and integrity in our public institutions, which are essential for sustainable development. Thirdly, it will promote active citizenship and citizens' activism in demanding transparency, accountability, and integrity from their leaders and service providers.

Through our Active Citizenship focus area, TI-Z has been working towards addressing the systemic causes of corruption and advocating for appropriate measures to support victims of corruption. We believe that community action, citizens' activism, and reporting of grievances against service delivery malpractices are essential in demanding transparency, accountability, and integrity from leaders and service providers.

Through this MoU, TI-Z and ACA will jointly offer support to victims of corruption in corruption-related case uptake through TI-Z's Advocacy and Legal Advice for Citizens (ALAC). We will further undertake joint social media advocacy on whistleblowing and whistleblower protection. Among other objectives, this partnership will enable ACA to bring to TI-Z's attention specific cases of corruption encountered in its routine work and cases directly reported to it by citizens. Depending on the nature of the reported cases, TI-Z will investigate and report to relevant law enforcement agencies for possible further action. We believe that this model will enable us to achieve the objectives of the MoU.

As I conclude, I wish to remind us all that corruption is a scourge that undermines development, hinders economic growth, and erodes the moral fabric of society. It is our responsibility as citizens to work together to combat corruption and create a society that is fair, just, and transparent.

I would like to commend TI-Z and ACA for their shared commitment to promote transparency, accountability, and integrity in Zambia. We remain

confident that this MoU will be implemented effectively and that it will ultimately enhance the good governance and accountability agenda in Zambia.

I thank you for your attention.



TI-Z ACA MoU signing Ceremony.

ACA Statement

Invited guests, colleagues from cooperating partners, fellow civic actors, members of the press, distinguished ladies and gentlemen, good morning.

The ACA is delighted to partner with TI-Zambia under this MoU which will guide our joint efforts to offer support to victims of corruption in corruption-related case uptake through the TI-Z Advocacy and Legal Advice for Citizens – ALAC as well as undertaking joint advocacy on whistleblowing and whistleblower protection.

In the rapidly changing context where corruption is constantly evolving and disguising itself, it has become imperative for civic actors and citizens to work together in addressing the scourge. Strategic partnerships such as the one we are signing today are therefore a key ingredient for successful interventions in the fight against corruption. Corruption has destroyed many lives of citizens and has on most cases translated to poor and absent service delivery. We must fight tooth and nail in a systematic, routine and in a collaborative way to ensure the lives of the poor and weak among us improve are better today and tomorrow than they were yesterday.

The importance of strategic collaboration in the fight against corruption cannot be over emphasized. The time has come for civic actors to share our skills, resources, and networks to stand against the tide of corruption which has plagued our country. We are here with TI-Z because we realise that while our respective organisations have their separate mandates, there is a great opportunity for TI-Z and ACA to pull together where our strengths can be harnessed to achieve greater results. Together we can do more. If the corrupt can find each other and call that “connections” we too must find each other and create our own connections – for the greater good of fellow citizens.

We at the ACA and TIZ refuse to accept that corruption cannot be defeated. We firmly believe that through working smart and together, we can overcome corruption, at least to the extent that it stops to hurt our people and this great nation of Zambia.

I thank you.

**PROGRAMME FOR THE SIGNING CEREMONY OF THE MEMORANDUM OF
UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL ZAMBIA AND ALLIANCE
FOR COMMUNITY ACTION**

TIME	ACTIVITY
	Welcome Remarks
	National Anthem
	Statement by TI-Z Executive Director
	Statement by ACA Executive Director
	Questions from the Press
	Signing Ceremony
	Vote of Thanks
	Networking