



JESUIT CENTRE FOR THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION
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15th May 2023

Dear Friends of JCTR,

RE: CALL FOR ARTICLES TO THE SECOND QUARTER JCTR BULLETIN

The Jesuit Centre for Theological Reflection (JCTR) is a research, education and advocacy organization that promotes study and action on issues linking Christian faith and social justice in Zambia. Through a faith-based perspective, JCTR strives to critically understand current issues, which emphasize human dignity at individual, household and national levels and generate activities to promote social justice. With the vision to educate, inform, advocate and lobby, JCTR publishes the JCTR quarterly bulletin, monthly Basic Needs Basket (Food Basket) and other engagement activities like workshops, trainings, and meetings.

Accountability of our democratically elected representatives, and transparency in the actions they undertake on our behalf, is a core tenet of our system of government in Zambia. Morality and ethics, democracy and constitutionalism, good governance and integrity are recognised as national values in the Zambian constitution. The constitution also insists that public service be done according to the ‘highest standards of professional ethics and integrity,’ and accountability for administrative acts is emphasised as a crucial guiding principle. (Article 173).

This accountability of elected representatives attains a particular significance when it comes to transparency concerning financial transactions. Article 262 of the Zambian constitution states that a person holding public office shall not act in a manner where personal interest is likely to conflict with the performance of the office to which they have been elected. In order to ensure that a public official does not have a personal financial interest which would conflict with their public responsibilities, section 10 of the Parliamentary and Ministerial Code of Conduct Act (Chp 16 of the Laws of Zambia) insists that a person who holds a ministerial office (or the office of Speaker or Deputy Speaker) shall submit an annual declaration of assets, liabilities and income. This financial transparency is designed to ensure that a person holding ministerial office cannot abuse their position in parliament for financial gain.

However, those who are required to submit annual declarations of assets, liabilities and sources of income are failing to do this. As of May 2022, only 2 of the 38 officials who are required to submit these declarations had actually done so. The mechanisms which are designed to ensure such declarations happen are not being utilised. This means that the public cannot scrutinise whether the administrative actions of public officials are being done

without personal financial interest. Furthermore, the President of the Republic of Zambia is not obliged to annually disclose assets, liabilities and sources of income. All that he or she is obliged to disclose are assets and liabilities at the beginning and at the end of taking office. The end result is that the public is not able to exercise oversight as to the legitimacy of any financial transactions undertaken by the President while in office.

In the light of this background, JCTR is calling for articles analysing the importance of accountability and transparency to the exercise of public office, with particular reference to financial accountability. **For the forthcoming JCTR Bulletin, JCTR is specifically calling for articles on the following:**

1. The importance of transparency to the exercise of public office
2. The need to hold public officials accountable for their financial transactions
3. Financial accountability and the office of the President
4. The adequacy of the laws and regulations applicable to the disclosure of assets and liabilities of public officials
5. The need for political parties to be open about their sourcing of funding
6. The responsibility of public officials to act as stewards of the nations resources
7. The role of citizens in holding public officials accountable between elections
8. The grounds upon which a member of parliament or president shall vacate office
9. The office of the President or member of parliament and conflicts of interest

The dateline for article submission for the Second Quarter JCTR Bulletin is 15th June 2023. The articles should be in Times New Roman, Font 12 and NOT exceeding 1,500 words and must be sent to bulletin@jctr.org.zm and copy jctrbulletin@gmail.com

Thank you and we will greatly appreciate your positive response.

Faithfully yours,



Fr. Alex Muyebe, S.J.

Executive Director/Bulletin Editor