MARGARET MATIBIRI

The Zimbabwe Anti-Corruption Commission (ZACC) has made its first official arrest with the Zimbabwe National Roads Administration (ZINARA) finance director Simon Taranhike being charged with criminal abuse of office and attempts to conceal corruption charges.

ZACC was given arresting powers through Statutory Instrument 143 of 2019 which was announced in the Extraordinary Government Gazette published last Friday.

Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Ziyambi Ziyambi, in terms of Section 2 (paragraph h) of the definition of “peace officer” under the Criminal Procedure and Evidence Act (Chapter 9:07) included ZACC officers giving them powers to arrest individuals they find wanting on issues of corruption.

ZINARA has been under the spotlight after a forensic audit unearthed several corrupt activities including irregular tenders and off the book procurement procedures and Taranhike is believed to be one of the ZINARA bosses who were being investigated for attempts to conceal corruption through media blackouts among other methods. In the wake of the audit report, some senior managers were accused of trying to scuttle investigations through a media blackout. The Zim Morning Post understands that sometime in April, 1 800 litres of fuel was ‘donated’ by Zinara to members of the media who were closing in on them exposing the rot at the parastatal.

Criminal Investigations Department (CID) anti-corruption department last week swooped on the boss, Taranhike who had been implicated in the audit report before they handed him over to ZACC to finalise investigations.

In turn, ZACC has now handed over his docket to the National Prosecuting Authority for prosecution which will see him appearing before a magistrate to answer to the charges being levelled against him.

In terms of the law, a peace officer refers to any worker of the State, county, or a municipality, a Sheriff or other public law enforcement agency, whose duties include arrests, searches and seizures, execution of criminal and civil warrants, and is responsible for the prevention or detection of crime or for the enforcement of law or orders among other duties and ZACC now falls under this category.

Further, the Commission has power to direct the Commissioner-General of police to investigate cases of suspected corruption, refer to the Prosecutor-General matters for prosecution like they are now doing with Taranhike, as well as to require assistance from members of the police.
Kagame scoffs at the West for Zim sanctions

Rwanda president Paul Kagame has scoffed at the irony exhibited by the United States and its Western allies by demanding change in Zimbabwe when they refuse to lift sanctions that inhibit transformation.

“Give them (Zimbabwe) time or even allow them the tools, if you are saying no I want you to change in a short time but at the same time they are under impediment.

“When you are under sanctions you are denied the tools to apply to actually change the situation change.

“You can’t be the same person who applied the sanctions and demand to see change, it doesn’t make sense,” he said. Kagame has not made his endorsement of President Emmerson Mnangagwa’s administration a secret.

The tall and lanky president has evidently shown that he does not pay lip service and proved it by attending Mnangagwa’s inauguration ceremony in Harare.

He also once publicly exposed MDC Alliance president Nelson Chamisa’s claims that he is the one who advised him on Rwanda’s Information, Communication Technology (ICT) strategy.

Kagame and Mnangagwa have striking similarities in their way of approaching international politics. They are both claim to be reformists and neoliberalists and this has paid off for Rwanda making it a model African country in successfully recording annual economic growth and receiving foreign direct investment.

On his ascension to power, Mnangagwa made a pledge to re-engage the West and other previously hostile countries, increase foreign direct investment, improving ease of doing business, parastatal reforms, crackdown against corruption, a revamp of the civil service work ethic and compensation for dispossessed white commercial farmers.

He even coined a new mantra ‘Zimbabwe is Open for Business’

He has managed to implement some of his pledges which has seen the Zimbabwe Anti-Corruption being given arresting powers and the clampdown against corruption intensifies on Wednesday.

Like Kagame, Mnangagwa also rose to presidency backing from the military with the only difference being that the November 17 takeover from his mentor Robert Mugabe was a bloodless and peaceful transition, while Kagame’s route was bloody and left more than 800 000 people dead.

In March 2019, United States President Donald Trump renewed sanctions on Zimbabwe blaming Mnangagwa for failing to implement important reforms and running a flawed election.

The United States has maintained the sanctions since 2003, and in a letter to the Senate, Trump wrote:

“Actions and policies of certain members of the government of Zimbabwe and other persons to undermine Zimbabwe’s democratic processes or institutions continues to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the foreign policy of the United States.”

The announcement served as a major blow to Mnangagwa’s efforts of re-engagement and this week Kagame noted the folly of the United States and its Western Allies in demanding change without removing the shackles.
A member of the presidential advisory council (PAC) Shingi Munyeza is agitating for a meeting between President Emmerson Mnangagwa and MDC leader Nelson Chamisa with hopes of ending the political crises in the country.

Writing on his micro blogging Twitter, Munyeza expressed the importance of a dialogue arguing that it could start by having a tea at a mutual convenient venue.

"Urging E D Mnangagwa and Nelson Chamisa to have a cup of tea together

Mutually convenient venue 2
Each one brings own tea and crockery Exhange niceties which are not political Must not last more than 15 min" "Please unite the nation" begged the clergyman.

This was not the first time Munyeza has uttered such sentiments. In June he also called for a dialogue between the two political leaders.

"DIALOGUE: ED Mnangagwa wants dialogue, Nelson Chamisa wants dialogue, herewith some criteria unconditional, inclusive and genuine. Let’s do it for Zimbabwe”

The recent sentiments acknowledges that dialogue between Zimbabwe’s two major political parties was necessary for Zimbabwe’s growth as well as the need of an independent convener in what he called a “genuine” dialogue.

Munyeza joins other Mnangagwa allies who are calling for a national dialogue between the two 2018 presidential candidates.

Norton Member of Parliament, Temba Mliswa has also weighed in arguing that dialogue between the two was the only way forward for Zimbabwe’s growth.

"My belief is when ED Mnangagwa and Nelson Chamisa meet it’ll unlock a lot of value for Zim. It’ll be like a release valve and a real show of the unity they both allude to. There’s nothing to lose but more to gain in their meeting. I see light at the end of the tunnel with such dialogue” said the out spoken independent legislator

The recent calls concur with Chamisa’s sympathisers who are not recognising the recently launched political actors dialogue (POLAD) that was launched in Harare between President Mnangagwa and other losing presidential candidates.

The Interbank rate continues to soar and trading at a higher rate than the parallel market rate on both cash and electronic transactions on Wednesday, the Zim Morning Post has observed.

The Interbank has been offering more in local currency as established in a survey carried out by this reporter.

The highest rate was ZWD$8 for $US1 while the parallel market rate was trading at US$1- ZWD$7 for electronic transactions. There has been uncertainty and speculative behavior in the market following government’s shock announcement last week.

Government abolished the use of multiple currency through Statutory Instrument (SI) 142 of 2019, known as Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe (Legal Tender) Regulations.

After the use of foreign currency was outlawed and the black market rate was at RTGS$13.5:USD$1 ,while the interbank rate was at RTGS$ 6.3:USD$1.

In the survey , banks visited include FBC which was trading at the highest buying price of ZWD $8.56 and selling at $9.42 above the black market rate which is buying at $6.5 and selling at $7 whereas through electronic transfer .

At Stanbic, the buying price was pegged at ZWD$7.5 and selling at $8.4.
The Zimbabwe Anti-Corruption Commission (ZACC) has summoned the Zanu PF Youth League to bring evidence of corruption against those implicated for prosecution.

Addressing the media, the newly appointed ZACC Chairperson Justice Loice Matanda Moyo said they noted the trending list of alleged corrupt top government and ZANU PF officials by the ZANU PF Youth League hence they are summoning the Youth League to bring evidence of corruption against those implicated with a view to prosecuting such corruption.

"We have also taken note of the trending list of alleged corrupt top government and ZANU PF officials by the ZANU PF Youth League. We are summoning the Youth League to bring evidence of corruption against those implicated with a view to prosecuting such corruption," she said.

Matanda Moyo promised ZACC will engage the Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP) to reach an understanding on matters that can be handled by the Police and ZACC as well as to deal with cases involving high profile members of society.

"ZACC will engage the Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP) to reach an understanding on matters that can be handled by the Police and ZACC. Our strategy is to have ZACC dealing with cases involving high level corruption and cases involving high profile members of society," she said. Moyo urged government to urgently review the powers of ministries over State Enterprises and Parastatals under their purview to stem out the culture of looting in these State Enterprises and Parastatals by parent Ministries.

"The government needs to urgently review the powers of Ministries over State Enterprises and Parastatals under their purview to stem out this culture of looting in these State Enterprises and Parastatal by parent Ministries," she said.

Matanda Moyo also said ZACC has received 38 cases of corruption with 10 of them involving high profiles. "Let me advise the nation that since my appointment, ZACC has received thirty-eight (38) cases of corruption of which ten (10) are high profile in nature. ZACC has already started thoroughly investigating these high-profile corruption cases. One (1) has been referred to the National Prosecuting authority this morning for trial."

"ZACC has put mechanism of vetting dockets before referral to the National Prosecution Authority. Be assured that we now have mechanisms in place to ensure quality investigations. As ZACC, we are aiming at 99% convictions for all matters taken to court," she said.
US dollar unsustainable: Biti

NYASHADZASHE NDORO

Former Finance minister and Movement for Democratic Change Vice President Tendai Biti said the US dollar is not sustainable for a small economy like Zimbabwe.

While addressing a SAPES Trust meeting on Thursday Biti said the US dollar is over priced and it makes Zimbabwe exports expensive.

"The US dollar is not sustainable for a number of reasons. It is overpriced so it makes our exports so expensive and it also makes the core structure of our economy so expensive," he said.

Biti said the US dollar has revalued in the last two years which makes it so unbearable for the Zimbabwean economy.

"In the last two years alone the US dollar has revalued by 19%. It is uncompetitive for a small economy like Zimbabwe."

Biti’s comments come at a time when government through the Ministry of Finance declared that the Zimbabwe dollar is now the sole legal tender following the abolition of the multi-currency system on Monday.

Biti has always been at loggerheads with Finance Minister professor Mthuli Ncube over Zimbabwe’s economic reform agenda.
Warriors AFCON disaster: Govt mulls to set up a Commission of Inquiry

PHILEMON JAMBAYA

The government of Zimbabwe is mooting on setting up a Commission of Inquiry to investigate the nightmarish performance by the senior men soccer team popularly known as the Warriors in Egypt where the team had a shock early exit at the prestigious Africa Cup of Nations tournament, Zim Morning Post has learnt.

The Warriors only managed to get a point from a tournament in which they were expected to perform better.

The poor performance disappointed government and the citizenry compelling calls for the inquiry.

Unconfirmed reports suggest that money exchanged hands and there was a 'third force' behind the poor outing.

“We are left with no option but to come up with a way forward to investigate what happened in Egypt."

"I strongly believe that money exchanged hands and I can tell you this is 'Egyptgate' but we only fear that FIFA might say that this is tantamount to government interference so we need a proper plan to deal with this issue," said a top official within the Ministry of Sports.

Football analysts raised alarm on why some individuals who were implicated in the infamous Asiagate scandal were close to the goings on in Egypt.

"Some officials and journalists who were in the Asiagate scandal were part of the people who travelled to Egypt and if we look at how we failed to qualify to the knockout stages, one must smell a rat."

If any individual is found guilty for involvement in the alleged match fixing saga he/she faces a ban from any football activities and possible arrest and imprisonment for fraud/corruption.

"We know that we do not have a proper law to deal with issues of football fraud but in the event that anyone is found guilty they will be banned or put in prison on fraud or corruption charges," our source revealed.

Efforts to get a comment from ZIFA hit a snag as the ZIFA Communications Manager Xolisani Gwesela was not picking his mobile phone while ZIFA president Felton Kamambos’ phone could not get through at the time of writing.