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## APNAC calls for dissolution of Cabinet

By Stuart Lisulo

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CORNELIUS Mweetwa says President Michael Sata has to demonstrate political will in fighting corruption by dissolving Cabinet.

Last Thursday, Malawian president, Joyce Banda, dissolved her cabinet amid rampant corruption in her cabinet, which proved to undermine public confidence in that country in the fight against corruption.

Mweetwa, who is African Parliamentarians' Network Against Corruption (APNAC) chairman, said the allegations made by Vice-President Dr Guy Scott and Wynter Kabimba over the existence of corrupt elements within Cabinet and PF have proved to undermine the integrity of President Sata's administration.

Recently, Kabimba said there was a corrupt and tribal clique within PF that wanted to cause anarchy.

"The people of Zambia require a fresh start and dissolving Cabinet is one way in which we would have some renewal of public confidence in the PF administration. That dissolution is going to crystallise the people's confidence in the administration to fight corruption," he said.

Mweetwa said the action President Banda took last Thursday to dissolve cabinet, showed that she was allergic to corruption.

"When you are allergic to corruption, you cannot dine and wine with corrupt people. You cannot sit in the same cabinet with people who are corrupt and say you are allergic to corruption; it means you are actually not allergic," he said.

Mweetwa said the action taken by President Banda should serve as a lesson and be emulated by leaders in the region and continent.

"It has really been very worrisome that President Sata has not bothered to publicly indicate to us his reaction on those corruption allegations by the Vice-President of the Republic. And also on his Minister of Justice; this is very, very serious because we believe at their level, they can't come out in the public to make such damaging remarks which are damaging to the entire PF leadership and administration and then that is left to be 'swept under the carpet' as if it has not been said. So we are wondering what the President is really up to," said Mweetwa.

And Mweetwa said in order for the fight against corruption to succeed, a collective effort on the part of all citizens to act as whistle-blowers was needed.

*It doesn't matter the position one holds in office, he/she can still be a whistle-blower. In this case, Dr Guy Scott and Honourable Wynter Kabimba are acting as whistle-blowers. We expect the ACC to move to those two offices and enquire which corruption they are talking about because surely, they are not joking, they must have some evidence. And President Sata has to realise that while it is a collective effort for all citizens to fight corruption, for us to win this battle against corruption, it needs political leadership and the political leadership in the fight against corruption has to not only be put in place; it must be demonstrated publicly in order to garner the confidence of the people that there is political will in the fight against corruption,* he said.

Mweetwa further said President Banda had led the way in what was supposed to be done if issues of corruption were going to arise in an incumbent administration.

"Dissolution of cabinet does not cost even one ngwee. On the same day you dissolve a cabinet, you are announcing another one. There is no loss, there is no administrative hiccup. If the system has corruption, it must be cleaned out in order that the citizens of this country continue to look up to the political leadership of the country to be genuinely and significantly interested in the fight against corruption. The silence of President Sata has not gone far to help people in thinking he really is allergic to corruption. As APNAC, we are judging President Sata's performance in the fight against corruption on his actions and not what he has said before," he said.

Meanwhile, Mweetwa confirmed plans are underway to establish APNAC Malawi (Chapter) in the next few weeks to serve as a contact operational point to learn how far in terms of public perception and confidence index this development has gone to invigorate the public's confidence in President Banda's fight against corruption.

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