

THE ZAMBIAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE PARIS PRINCIPLES

GENERAL BACKGROUND

The establishment of a permanent human rights institution was recommended by the Human Rights Commission of Inquiry (also referred to as the *Munyama Commission*), which was appointed in 1992 to examine the human rights situation in Zambia prior to the re-introduction of a plural political system in 1991. The Munyama Commission stated the case for the establishment of a permanent human rights commission in Chapter 6 of its report. The Munyama Commission noted that many witnesses who testified to the Commission appreciated the appointment of the Commission of Inquiry and expressed the need for the government to establish a permanent institution to safeguard human rights and fundamental freedoms. The idea of a permanent institution for the promotion and protection of human rights had also been recommended by the Mwanakatwe Constitutional Review Commission, which was constituted to spearhead the introduction of constitutional amendments that were effected in 1996.

On the composition of the national human rights institution, the Munyama Commission recommended a pluralist representation of civilian society and suggested a list including:

- (i) non-governmental organisations responsible for human rights;
- (ii) trade unions
- (iii) concerned social and professional organisations, for example, associations of lawyers, doctors, journalists and eminent scientists;
- (iv) universities; and
- (v) Parliament.

The Munyama Commission also took cognisance of and cited the composition for the Human Rights Commission proposed by the Mwanakatwe Constitutional Review Commission. The Mwanakatwe Commission had suggested seven members with the following composition:

- (i) one person with expertise in human rights nominated by the President;
- (ii) two representatives with expertise in human rights nominated by women organizations;
- (iii) one person nominated by religious organizations;

- (iv) one person, a human rights activist, nominated by the Law Association of Zambia; and
- (v) one person nominated by the trade unions.

ESTABLISHMENT

In 1996, the Government introduced a new State Constitution. One of the new aspects introduced in the constitution was Part XII entitled “Human Rights Commission”. Article 125(1) established the Human Rights Commission. Article 125(2) stated that the Commission was to be an autonomous body. Article 126 provided that the functions, powers, composition, funding and administrative procedures were to be prescribed in an Act of Parliament. In 1996, the **Human Rights Commission Act No. 39 of 1996** (HRC Act) was enacted. The HRC Act, *inter alia*, provides for autonomy, appointment and composition, tenure of the commissioners, functions and powers, complaints mechanism and meetings of the Commission.

AUTONOMY OF THE COMMISSION

Under Section 3 of the HRC Act, the Commission is established as an autonomous body which, in the performance of its duties, is not subject to the direction or control of any person or authority. In this regard, the Commission does not serve under a government ministry although, for administrative purposes, its links with the State are established through the Office of the Vice President. It is also the Vice President who presents the Commission’s budget estimates in Parliament.

Reporting

Pursuant to Section 25(1) of the HRC Act, the Commission tenders its report concerning its activities during the financial year to the President. In practice, the government has no control over the contents of the Commission’s Annual Report. The report is submitted to the President for his information and submission to the National Assembly. In practice the report is simultaneously submitted to the President and the National Assembly. Thereafter, the report is prepared for tabling before the National Assembly through the Vice President.

Staff

The Commission appoints its own staff. Under Section 18, the Commission can appoint a Director and Deputy Director and other staff on such terms and conditions as it may determine. The Commission can also engage the services of such advisors and experts as it thinks fit.

Challenge: The Commission is currently operating at 30% its capacity country wide, making it difficult for the Commission to adequately deliver on its mandate.

Immunity from Legal Action

Under Section 20, no proceedings, civil or criminal, can be brought against a commissioner or the staff for anything done in the exercise the functions of the Commission. Section 20(2) also says that a commissioner or member of staff cannot be called to give evidence before any court or tribunal in respect of anything coming to such person's knowledge in the exercise of the functions of the Commission.

COMPOSITION AND GUARANTEES OF INDEPENDENCE AND PLURALISM

The Mwanakatwe Constitutional Review Commission had recommended that the Judicial Service Commission be accorded the power to appoint the members of the Human Rights Commission, subject to ratification by the National Assembly. While it recognised that the Mwanakatwe Commission had suggested a composition which was in line with the international guidelines, the Munyama Commission disagreed with the proposal that the commissioners be appointed by the Judicial Service Commission. The Munyama Commission reasoned that part of the mandate of the Human Rights Commission should be to investigate mal-administration of justice.

Appointment

When the enabling legislation was finally put into place, it did not expressly provide for the composition that had been recommended by the Munyama Commission as outlined above. The current law provides for the appointment of seven Commissioners. Section 5(1) of the HRC Act provides for a Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and not more than five other Commissioners.

The appointment of the commissioners is vested in the President of the Republic, subject to ratification by Parliament. Except for the positions of chairperson and vice chairperson, the HRC Act does not expressly state the qualifications that are to be considered for appointment as Commissioner for the five other positions. The Chairperson and Vice Chairperson must be persons who have held or are qualified to hold high judicial office (Section 5(3)).

In practice, the appointing authority comes up with names of persons of any background, taking into account any human rights work they may have undertaken elsewhere. The candidates are subjected to various inquiries into their personal and professional lives by various institutions. These include the Zambia Police, the Anti-Corruption Commission, the Drug Enforcement Commission, relevant professional bodies such as the Law Association of Zambia and others whose information about the candidates may be relevant to their confirmation as suitable persons to occupy the position of Commissioner in the Human Rights Commission. The candidates are also interviewed by the Parliamentary Appointments Committee. The end of the appointments process is the submission of the names of the candidates for ratification before the National Assembly.

After successful ratification, the new Commissioners are then sworn into office by the President of the Republic.

The proposals given by the Munyama and Mwanakatwe Commissions seemed to suggest a mandatory inclusion of persons of certain backgrounds as commissioners (trade unionists, academics, women's rights activists, etc). Arguably, the proposals could be said to have been more in line with the Paris Principles and sought a more representative Commission. However, the small number of Commissioners provided for under the current law cannot accommodate as diverse a composition as was earlier suggested. The Commissioners are appointed for a term of three years, subject to renewal.

Since April 1997 when the first Commissioners were appointed, those appointed have included a Supreme Court Judge, lawyers, former Government Ministers, religious leaders, media and civil society personalities and an ex-political detainee and torture victim.

Independence from Appointing Authority

Since the inception of the Commission various quarters of the Zambian society and international observers have expressed concern as to the independence of the Commissioners. Some have argued that that the involvement of the Head of State in the appointment of the Commissioners compromises their independence, especially when dealing with cases that raise politically sensitive issues.

The experience in practice has been different. The Commission does not receive any orders from the President. The Commission has also dealt with what may be regarded as politically sensitive issues. A good example is when the Commission issued a report about the alleged torture of 1997 attempted coup suspects. The Commission had undertaken visits to the places where the detainees were kept and found that some had been tortured by state agents. In its report, the Commission recommended further investigations and inquiry into the alleged torture and ill-treatment. The Government complied with the Commission's recommendations and appointed a Commission of Inquiry headed by High Court Judge Japhet Banda. The Japhet Banda Commission substantiated the Human Rights Commission's earlier findings and recommended compensation for the victims.

Over the years, there have been other cases in which the Commission's recommendations have been complied with by various authorities; although they do not necessarily have the same high profile as the case of the 1997 attempted coup suspects.

Removal from Office

Section 7(2) of the HRC Act provides for situations in which a Commissioner may be removed from office. It states that a commissioner may be removed for inability to perform the functions of office, whether arising from infirmity of body or mind, incompetence or for misbehaviour. In Section 7(3), a commissioner may also resign

upon giving one month's notice in writing to the President. The office of Commissioner may also be declared vacant if Commissioner dies, is declared bankrupt or has been absent from three consecutive meetings without reasonable excuse.

FUNCTIONS AND POWERS

The functions and powers of the Human Rights Commission are outlined in Sections 9 and 10 of the HRC Act. Section 9 provides the functions as:

- a) investigate human rights violations;
- b) investigate any mal-administration of justice;
- c) propose effective measures to prevent human rights abuse;
- d) visit prisons and places of detention or related facilities with a view to assessing and inspecting conditions of the persons held in such places and make recommendations to redress existing problems;
- e) establish a continuing programme of research, education, information and rehabilitation of victims of human rights abuse to enhance the respect for and protection of human rights;
- f) do all such things as are incidental or conducive to the attainment of the functions of the Commission.

Investigation of Alleged Human Rights Violations

As indicated above, the Commission has the mandate to investigate alleged human rights violations. This function is provided for in Section 9(a) of the Act. This mandate is further provided for in Section 10 and other subsequent provisions of the Act. Under Section 10(1), the Commission has powers to investigate any human rights abuses:

- (a) on its own initiative; or
- (b) on receipt of a complaint or allegation under the Act by-
 - (i) an aggrieved person acting in such person's own interest;
 - (ii) an association acting in the interest of its members;
 - (iii) a person acting on behalf of an aggrieved person; or
 - (iv) a person acting on behalf of and in the interest of a group or class of persons.

This is in line with the “*Additional principles concerning the status of commissions with quasi-judicial competence*” whereby a national institution may be authorised to hear and consider complaints and petitions concerning individual situations. As required in the Additional Principles, Section 10(1)(b) makes it possible individuals and others such as third parties, non-governmental organisations and other associations.

The receipt and investigation of individual complaints is by far the most important day-to-day preoccupation of the Commission. This is the power that enables the Commission to tackle problems affecting people at individual level. Although under Zambian law the Constitution vests primary jurisdiction of human rights issues in the High Court under Article 28, the mechanism provided under Section 10 of the Human Rights Commission Act has proved to be an important complement to the judicial process. Despite its limitations, such as the lack of a mandate to issue binding orders, the process under Section 10 of the Human Rights Commission Act does have certain advantages to that provided for in Article 28 of the Constitution, including:

1. Apart from the individual cost of coming to the Commission offices to lodge a complaint, the process costs virtually nothing.
2. There are no stringent rules and procedures as those found before the High Court.
3. The atmosphere is less intimidating.
4. Unlike under Article 28, anyone can complain on behalf of a victim of human rights abuse under the Human Rights Commission Act, provided they have evidence.
5. The commission, unlike the courts, has a mandate to go out and investigate and collect vital information other than that provided by the complainant.

In practice, when a complaint is received by the **Complaints Registry**, it is given a file number and lined up for consideration by the **Complaints Committee**. The Complaints Committee meets once a week to consider cases. It makes decisions regarding the admissibility and merits of the complaint, including instructing the Investigations and Legal Department to initiate investigations. The Complaints Committee also makes it a point to ensure the complainant is properly advised on their rights and the possible remedies. The Complaints Committee may, if necessary, refer the matter to another authority depending on the issues involved.

The Complaints Committee then compiles all the complaints that have been considered and presents them before the **Cases Review Meeting** of the Commission. The Cases Review Meetings are held once a month at which the full Commission sits and considers the actions and decisions taken by the Complaints Committee. The Cases Review Meeting takes various decisions. It may uphold or strike down a decision of the Complaints Committee and may give further guidance on the investigations to be carried out on a complaint. It is also in the Cases Review Meetings that the Commission may

assign a Commissioner to try to seek an amicable settlement of the complaint through conciliation or mediation.

Where the Cases Review Meetings considers that the proper determination of a complaint requires hearing oral evidence from the parties to the case, the Commission may conduct a **public hearing** in accordance with Section 12 of the Act. At the Public Hearing, the Commission sits as a quasi-judicial tribunal to consider the matter. Members of the public are welcome to come and observe the public hearings.

Under Section 10(2) the Commission has powers to issue summons or orders requiring the attendance of any authority before the Commission and the production of any document or record relevant to any investigation by the Commission. The Commission can also question any person in respect of any subject matter under investigation before the Commission or require any person to disclose any information within such person's knowledge relevant to any investigation by the Commission. The legal authority to compel co-operation of others, particularly government agencies, is a prerequisite for full operational autonomy of a national human rights institution such as the Commission, especially since it is vested with the power to investigate complaints.

With regard to the receipt and processing of complaints, the Commission drafted its own rules of procedure pursuant to Section 14(1) of the Act. These rules are contained in *Statutory Instrument No. 22 of 2002*. The Statutory Instrument includes a specimen complaints form. The form assists complainants in filling out details regarding their case. Additional information may still be given by the complainant depending on how much detail is required to be given at the preliminary stages of the matter.

The Commission can recommend various forms of action to be taken or redress in the event of a violation. It can recommend:

- ✓ the punishment of any officer found by the Commission to have perpetrated an abuse of human rights – Section 10(2)(d);
- ✓ where it considers necessary- Section 10(4):
 - (i) the release of a person from detention;
 - (ii) the payment of compensation to a victim of human rights abuse, or to such victim's family;
 - (iii) that an aggrieved person seek redress in a court of law; or
 - (iv) such other action as it considers necessary to remedy the infringement of a right.

It is important to note that under Section 10(5), the Commission has no power to act on a matter that is pending before a court.

Section 11(3) requires a complaint to be made within a period of two years from the date on which the facts giving rise to any such complaint or allegation become known to the person making the complaint or the allegation. The rationale behind the two-year rule is to ensure that the matter is dealt with while it is still fresh, which makes it easy to put together the available evidence and witnesses.

Pursuant to Section 11(4) the Commission may refuse to conduct, or may decide to discontinue an investigation where it is satisfied that the complaint or allegation is malicious, frivolous, vexatious or the particulars accompanying it are insufficient to allow a proper investigation to be conducted, and shall indicate accordingly in the report.

Investigation of Mal-administration of Justice

The Munyama Commission had recommended that part of the mandate of the Human Rights Commission should be to investigate mal-administration of justice. While the principle of the independence of the judiciary is one of the pillars in the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, meaning that the judiciary at all levels should be left to discharge its functions and powers without undue interference or pressure from any quarter, it is still prudent in any democratic society that in those special circumstances where the judiciary or its members are found wanting in the discharge of their duties resulting in the violation of individual rights and freedoms, someone should be able to investigate and ensure that redress for victims of mal-administration of justice is accorded.

The Munyama Commission reasoned that the independence of the judiciary went only as far as the proper administration of justice was concerned. This is essentially why, for example, under the Constitution of Zambia, a judge can be removed from office for misconduct or some such other serious abuse of office. It was argued that the power to investigate mal-administration of justice was not meant to review the decision of a court of law but to review whether the judicial process in a particular matter or case fell in line with the requirements of the right to a fair trial and other relevant human rights standards.

Initially, this particular function of the Commission met resistance from the Zambian Judiciary. The views against according the Commission such powers did not result from any particular incidence in which the Commission invoked Section 9(b) of the HRC Act. The Commission has not had occasion to use that power in its nine years of existence. The views were mostly expressed in seminars or workshops during the early years of the Commission. In the subsequent years, it seems that the Judiciary has come to appreciate generally the rationale behind the Commission's power to investigate mal-administration of justice. It is yet to be seen what the reaction would should a matter actually arise where the Commission decides to use its mandate under Section 9(b).

Inspection of Places of Detention and Proposing Effective Measures to Prevent Human Rights Violations

Under Section 9(c) and (d) of the HRC Act, the Commission has the mandate to propose effective measures for the prevention of human rights violations and to visit prisons and other such facilities.

The Commission has undertaken several of such inspections since 1997. In its mandate to visit the prisons and other such facilities, the Commission assesses the condition of both the facilities and the inmates and also the conditions under which prison officers serve. (Refer to enclosed Annual Reports)

The most recent tour was undertaken in Southern Province in July, 2006. In its reports the Commission recommends various actions to be taken by the government and other authorities, including, where necessary, changes in legislation, rules and regulations.

Education and Information

Apart from the important function of receiving and investigating complaints, the Commission has the mandate to provide human rights education and information to the public. As already identified above, one of the functions of the Commission in Section 9(e) of the Act is, *inter alia*, to establish a continuing programme of education and information.

In its information and education activities, the Commission collaborates with other bodies and institutions such as the media, NGOs and even United Nations agencies. Since its inception, the Commission has organised and/or facilitated the holding of seminars and workshops to train people in human rights, especially those directly involved in human rights through their work. The Human Rights Commission has in this regard, whenever resources are available, organised and held a number of workshops for law enforcement agents, teachers and education authorities, NGOs, political parties and others. The workshops are tailored according to the needs of the targeted audience.

The Commission also occasionally conducts a series of radio programmes to sensitise the public. The radio programmes may run for a period of 13 weeks in English and the 7 main vernacular languages.

The Commission is currently working with the country's education authorities to help Zambia implement the World Programme for Human Rights Education. In June and August, 2006, the Commission conducted training workshops in human rights and participants were drawn from the Curriculum Development Centre, teacher training colleges, University of Zambia and Ministry of Education. Resource persons were drawn from the Commission and civil society.

The Ministry of Education is in the process of introducing, among other new subjects, human rights education in the schools. The Commission has actively made an input to the content of the syllabus on human rights.

In 2002-2003, the Commission conducted workshops for law enforcement agencies in human rights. The workshops were conducted in Lusaka, Southern and Western Provinces. They were designed to bring awareness to the police in particular, on the human rights issues involved in their work.

Advising and Assisting Government

Legislation and other Issues

In practice, the Commission has provided advice to the Government through the *Parliamentary Committee on Legal Affairs, Governance, Human Rights and Gender Matters*. Through this committee, the Commission has made its stand known on topical issues that Parliament would like to address or on proposed legislation. In the recent past, the Commission made submissions on the proposed Electoral Bill No. 12 of 2006, which sought to reform the electoral law in Zambia. The Bill was introduced after the Electoral Reform Technical Committee, appointed to review the electoral system in Zambia and the Constitutional Review Commission concluded their work.

The Commission also submitted its views on the issues of human trafficking and internal displacement.

State Reporting

The Commission has also assisted in the state reporting process. Since the year 2000, the Commission has participated in the preparation of the following reports:

- ✓ Zambia's Initial Report under the Convention against Torture (2000)
- ✓ Zambia's Initial and First Periodic Report under the Convention on the Rights of the Child (2001)
- ✓ Zambia's Initial Report under the Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (2001)
- ✓ Zambia's 12th Periodic Report under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (2003)

In 2005, the Commission contributed to the preparation of Zambia's First Period Report under the Convention against Torture, Zambia's Initial and Consolidated Report under the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights and Zambia's Periodic Report under the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. This year (2006), Zambia is preparing the

next periodic report under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Commission has provided its input.

Apart from just providing data, the Commission has also been invited on some occasions to provide resource persons to the state reporting process.

Constitutional Review Process

Recently, Zambia undertook a constitutional review process. The Constitution Review Commission went round the country getting submissions for the proposed new constitution. The Human Rights Commission made its submission on various issues, particularly the National Bill of Human Rights. Among other things, the Commission advocated the domestication of international human rights instruments that Zambia has ratified; introduction of more elaborate provisions for children's rights, women's rights and rights of people with disabilities. The Commission also submitted for the strengthening of its own powers and functions to make it more effective.

Research

The Commission is yet to conduct a major research project. There have been constraints of inadequate resources and staff. However, in 2000-2001, the Commission, with the financial assistance of the Danish Embassy in Lusaka, conducted a survey on the number of prohibited immigrants in Lusaka Province prisons. The project generally looked at the problems of congestion in the prisons and police cells. When the report was issued, it formed the basis for further assistance by the Danish Embassy to help repatriate the prohibited immigrants that were being held in the prisons. In this exercise, the Commission worked closely with the Immigration Department. A total of 1016 prohibited immigrants were repatriated (see 2003 Annual Report).

Currently, the Research Department is undertaking a "Legislative Review and Monitoring Programme" whereby it is examining Zambia's compliance with international human rights standards, specifically the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) and the Convention against Torture (CAT). The purpose is to carry out a comprehensive review of legislation, policy, judicial decisions and administrative practices.

METHODS OF OPERATION

It is clear that the mandate is quite wide and all encompassing as recommended in the Paris Principles.

Administration

The Organisation Structure is enclosed. As indicated there, the Commission is administratively divided into three core departments:

- ✓ the Investigations and Legal Department
- ✓ the Information and Education Department
- ✓ the Research and Planning Department.

The Investigations and Legal Department is responsible for receiving, processing and investigating all the complaints that are lodged at the Commission. The Information and Education Department is responsible for spearheading the dissemination of human rights information as well as organising training and education activities. The Research and Planning Department conducts research and prepares action plans for the Commission.

Out of a recommended establishment of 131 positions, the Commission currently has only a staff compliment of 43. Budgetary constraints have made it difficult to recruit the required numbers of staff.

Committees

Soon after coming into existence in 1997, the Commission set up committees to assist it in the discharge of its functions. Under Section 15 of the Act, the Commission can establish committees to whom certain functions can be delegated. These committees act as working groups and are headed by a commissioner. Currently, the Commission has five Thematic Committees centred around a number of priority areas. These are the:

- ✓ Children's Rights Committee;
- ✓ Committee against Torture;
- ✓ Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Committee;
- ✓ Civil and Political Rights Committee; and
- ✓ Gender Equality Committee.

The committees' membership may include persons other than commissioners and members of staff.

Meetings

Under Section 14(2) the Commission is required to meet every three months for the transaction of business. In practice, the Commission holds extra-ordinary or special meetings when there are urgent issues to consider. As will be indicated below, the Commission meets once a month to consider complaints due to the frequency with which they are lodged. The Commission, under Section 14(1), may regulate its own procedure.

The Commission may invite any person, whose presence is in its opinion desirable, to attend and to participate in the deliberations of the meeting. Such person, however, has no vote on any resolutions taken.

Press Statements and Releases

Although this is not expressly provided for in the enabling Act, the Commission releases statements to the press on issues of public interest. Where necessary, the Commission has held press briefings if there are many issues it would like to address.

Networking and Collaboration

The Commission networks with both the government and non-governmental organisations in its work. The Commission has, for instance, participated in the preparation of state reports and worked with NGOs through referral of cases or implementation of sensitisation and education activities. In this regard, the Commission works closely with the Legal Resources Foundation, an NGO specialised in taking human rights cases to court, and the Zambia Civic Education Association, specialised in children's rights and human rights education.

REGIONAL OFFICES

Since 2001, the Commission has been undertaking a decentralisation programme with the aim of opening regional offices. The decentralisation programme has been made possible by financial and material assistance from the Royal Norwegian Embassy and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). So far the Commission has four operational regional offices in Chipata (Eastern Province), Kasama (Northern Province), Mongu (Western Province) and Ndola (Copperbelt Province). On 31 August, 2006, an office will be opened in Livingstone (Southern Province). Efforts are underway to secure an office in Solwezi (North Western Province).

The introduction of the regional offices has made it easier for people in the rural areas to access the Commission's services. Further details are given supplied in the enclosed Annual Reports.

FUNDING AND BUDGET

The bulk of the funding for the commission comes from the State. On average, the Commission receives an annual allocation of about ZMK 5 billion (or roughly US\$ 1,250,000). This is normally not adequate for the Commission's requirements. The difficulties include the fact that the funding comes in monthly instalments and sometimes there is no funding. The Ministry of Finance and National Planning sets the annual budget ceilings and it is the ceiling which determines the financial year's priorities.

The low budgetary allocations have been largely attributed to the economic difficulties that Zambia has been experiencing for many years now. Funding to public institutions was restricted to help the country reach the Highly Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Completion Point. Now that Zambia has reached the HIPC Completion Point, it is expected that funding to the Commission will gradually improve.

Since 1997 when the Commission began its operations, the donor community has assisted the Commission to undertake various projects and programmes. Assistance has come

from the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, UNDP, UNICEF, and the embassies of Norway, Sweden, Finland, Denmark and Japan.

CONCLUSION

An examination of the mandate of the Commission as outlined in the HRC Act suggests that it largely complies with the requirements of the Paris Principles. Although some aspects are not expressly stated, the functions and powers of the Commission are broad enough. Experience has shown that the major problem is not a limited mandate but the inadequacy of resources to implement that mandate.

It is also worth noting that the draft State Constitution has included major changes to the functions and powers of the Commission. The functions and powers will also be constitutionally entrenched, thus raising the profile of the Commission. Some of the new powers will include the ability to cite for contempt for failure to comply with the Commission's decisions and to issue binding orders. The draft constitution also requires that funds appropriated by Parliament should be released in full and that the Commission is not to be under-funded in any financial year.

Much of what has been included on the Commission in the draft Constitution was a result of the submissions the Commission and other stakeholders made to the Constitutional Review Commission. The reforms will change the face of the Commission for the better.