

**OPENING REMARKS OF THE  
DEPUTY INSPECTOR GENERAL OF GOVERNMENT  
DR. PATRICIA ACHAN OKIRIA  
AT A TRAINING OF FOCAL PERSONS ON THE INSPECTORATE  
OF GOVERNMENT ONLINE DECLARATION SYSTEM (IG-ODS) -  
LEADER REGISTER  
HELD AT IMPERIAL ROYALE HOTEL  
ON THE 13<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2022**

The Secretary, the Inspectorate of Government

The Director, Leadership Code

Heads of departments and agencies present

Staff of the Inspectorate of Government

Invited guests, dear participants

Ladies and gentlemen,

Good morning

I am pleased to welcome you all for this training where the Inspectorate of Government is training Focal persons from MDAs on the IG Online Declaration System (IG-ODS system).

Allow me to take this opportunity to profoundly thank you for the great role many of you have played since the launch of the ODS in 2016 to-date in supporting the IG in the enforcement of the Code in ensuring and assisting processes relating to making and submitting of declarations by several public servants in your departments and agencies.

I thank the Director Leadership Code and the technical staff of the Inspectorate for timely organizing this training.

As you are aware, the Inspectorate of Government is mandated under Articles 225(d) and 234 of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda 1995, Section 3(1) of the Leadership Code Act, 2002 and Section 8(1) (d) of the Inspectorate of Government Act, 2002, to supervise and enforce the Leadership Code of conduct.

The Leadership Code Act (LCA) which came into force in 2002 is one of the measures put in place by Government to prevent and combat corruption and enhance good governance and transparency in the management of public affairs.

The Act provides for minimum standards of behavior and conduct of leaders. Under Section 4, it requires leaders to declare their income, assets and liabilities **within three months** after being appointed or elected into a position of leadership and thereafter **every two years during the month of March**.

In line with this mandate, the Inspectorate received declarations of a sizeable number of public servants last year in 2021 and we were able to do verification and bring to book those that did not comply. The operationalization of the Leadership Code Tribunal has gone a long way in helping in this.

The next declaration period specifically for leaders is March 2023. We are therefore beginning with ground work, by clearing the ground through training of stakeholders and data clean up; to ensure that the register of leaders is correctly updated to reflect the various changes in deployment and employment of those that have been leaders. I know that the training will clarify to you who a leader is viz a viz other public servants/ officers whose declaration exercise took place last year.

Just as the register of leaders has undergone various changes due to deployment changes, the composition of Focal Persons must have also changed; with some either being transferred, or retired or vacancies created and filled by occurrence of death and many other circumstances. It therefore means that we may have some totally new Focal persons in

some MDAs who have never been trained and in others, we still have the same Focal persons who are familiar with their roles.

The purpose of this training is to therefore take you through your roles as Focal persons and to enlighten you on how crucial it is for the ultimate submission of declarations by public servants in the various Ministries, Departments and agencies of government.

The IG-ODS being an online based system has had several improvements such as self-invitation and leaders support system. These developments require the public sensitisation to enable the different users appreciate the system. We hope to take you through all the new changes to assist you and those you will be helping to sail through successfully.

This training will be done both physically and virtually across the board.

I have carefully studied the line-up of topics and noted that you will be taken through the legal framework governing declarations, a step by step practical on the IG-ODS as a system, its communication tools comprised of the various platforms for supporting the receipt and submission of declarations, and your role as Focal persons. You will also get a chance to be introduced to and given contacts of the support team from the Inspectorate, among others.

Looking at the team of facilitators, and considering their wealth of experience garnered from their unique training, work setting , personal industry and official positioning- I have no doubt that this training will be a great success. I thank you for this endearing effort.

I thank our predecessors and the IG technical teams and all the partners for the IG-ODS innovation. You are aware that in the past, leaders were filing paper declarations of income, assets and liabilities.

The Inspectorate of Government faced several challenges related to the paper based declarations; in particular the high costs of procuring, distributing, collecting and storing declaration forms for over 25,000 (twenty five thousand) leaders for every declaration period.

The current Online Declaration System (IG-ODS) has enabled the IG to receive, process and manage the declarations electronically. Its benefits are far reaching;

- i) It is fast, efficient and effective, and, therefore, far less costly,
- ii) Leaders can submit their declarations from anywhere in the world, as long as there is internet connectivity. They no longer have to physically queue at the IG offices.
- iii) It is considerably cheaper for both the Leaders and the IG, because printing costs, transport costs and data entry costs are greatly reduced.

I applaud you staff of the Inspectorate and our predecessors the previous Inspector Generals of Government and the deputies for the job well done.

I also thank our development partners and Government of Uganda for sponsoring the development of this application and for its commitment in the fight against corruption to ensure that we uphold accountability and transparency in public service.

To you our great partners, the Focal persons, you are not only our strong pillars in relation to declarations but you are our count-on persons and representatives in relation to general compliance with the Leadership Code of Conduct. This is not a small position. In essence, you are the Directors, Leadership Code in your respective institutions.

I therefore call upon you to exude integrity, professionalism, innovativeness, impartiality and gender equality and equity; the values with which the Inspectorate serves.

I call upon you to exercise exemplary leadership and to create good working relationship with the IG support teams. We are counting on you for a clean and accurate leaders' register and for increased compliance with the Constitutional requirement for all leaders and public servants to declare their assets, incomes and liabilities.

I thank the Secretary, the Inspectorate of Government without whose support, this activity would not have been possible.

Dear participants, I thank you for taking of time from your busy schedules to respond to our invite. I urge you to take this training seriously.

I now take the honor to declare this training **OFFICIALLY OPENED**

**For God and my country**

**Patricia Achan Okiria (Dr.)**

**DEPUTY INSPECTOR GENERAL OF GOVERNMENT**