

**REMARKS OF THE DEPUTY INSPECTOR GENERAL OF GOVERNMENT ON
THE LAUNCH OF THE SELF REGISTRATION MODULE OF IG-ODS ON 23RD
OCTOBER, 2020 IN THE IG BOARDROOM**

The Hon. Minister of State of Ethics and Integrity
Chairperson and Members of LC Tribunal
The Secretary to the Inspectorate of Government and all the Directors Present
The Registrar LCT
Ladies and Gentlemen

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the launch of the **Self Registration Module of IGODS**

Honorable Minister, 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(A) of the Leadership Code Act, 2002 and Section 8(1) (d) of the Inspectorate of Government Act, 2002, to enforce the Leadership Code of Conduct together with the Leadership Code Tribunal.

The Leadership Code Act provides for minimum standards of behavior and conduct of leaders. Under Article 233 of the Constitution, Parliament was by law required to establish a Leadership Code of Conduct for Leaders.

(2)The purpose of The Leadership Code of Conduct was as follows:—

- (a) To require specified officers to declare their incomes, assets and liabilities from time to time and how they acquired or incurred them,
- (b) To prohibit conduct -
 - (i) Likely to compromise the honesty, impartiality and integrity of specified officers;
 - (ii) Likely to lead to corruption in public affairs; or
 - (iii) Which is detrimental to the public good or welfare or good governance;
- (c) Prescribe the penalties to be imposed for breach of the code,
- (d) Prescribe powers, procedures and practices for ensuring the effective enforcement of the code; and

(e) Make any other provision as may be necessary for ensuring the promotion and maintenance of honesty, probity, impartiality and integrity in public affairs and the protection of public funds and other public property.

The Law essentially serves 2 purposes:

1. Requires leaders to declare their income, assets and liabilities to the Inspectorate of Government and deal with prohibited behavior.

Hon Minister I am proud to say that the Anti-Corruption community for which you provide political oversight has accomplished a lot on the first Objective of the Leadership Code Act as we will demonstrate below but we probably need to do more in respect of moving forward enactment of laws to enable implementation of enforcement of prohibited conduct which facilitates corruption. However this is a matter we will take up at the IAF in the near future.

Six years ago, the Inspectorate of Government undertook to revitalize one of its three key mandates of Enforcement of the Leadership Code by commencing the journey of Automation of the management of the Declaration process as well as other processes. We highlighted this endeavor as our third Pillar of the Strategic Objectives of the Inspectorate of Government. In order to invigorate the process we appointed a new substantive Director of the Leadership Code Ms. Annet Twine here present. Twine brought a new energy and innovation to the modernization of the implementation of the Leadership Code.

You will recall that since 2002 when the Leadership Code Act came into force up until 2016, Leaders were filing their Declarations of Income, Assets and Liabilities manually and in hard copy. The process was not only cumbersome but it was also very expensive. Procurement, Distribution, Collection and Storage of Declaration Forms for over 25,000 (Twenty Five Thousand) Leaders for every Declaration Period became an industry of its own. Remember that each form consisted of 23 pages. This was compounded by enormity of the task of Data Entry into the Leadership Code database system. On the other hand, Leaders would have to travel long distances to deliver the Declarations to the IG offices. This was not only costly but also time consuming. In addition, the Leaders would cause long queues at IG office towards the deadline of 31st March every Declaration Period.

Therefore the automation of the Declaration process under the code name **IGODS** was a Game Changer for all the parties involved.

Hon Minister I want to take this opportunity to thank you for the supporting the IG the entire stretch of this journey and in particular to thank you for throwing your entire weight and that of the Government to the passing of the Leadership Code (Declaration Form) Regulations 2016 which operationalized the Online Declaration System (**IGODS**). Similarly, in 2019 you harmonized the Regulation with the **2017** Amendments of the Leadership Code Act and thereby terminated the use of manual forms. The **IGODS** has since been used to receive Declarations in 2016(on pilot basis), **2017** and **2019**.

Since the launch of **IGODS**, over **25,000** Leaders have been registered into the system and over **90%** of them have successfully submitted their Declarations online.

The **IG-ODS** has eased the process of Data Capture, Search, and Retrieval. The system has indeed turned out to be an invaluable tool in the enforcement of the Leadership Code because of its inherent capacity to hold a huge volume of Data safely, securely and in a manner in which it can be easily analyzed

Hon. Minister I wish to report to you that we have commenced **IG-ODS** Phase **II** which is intended to develop an E-Verification Tool which will help in data analysis, comparison and risk assessment.

At the same time the IG team is working with NITA(U) to develop protocols, starting with the Land Registry ,to allow electronic synchronization of the Declared data with the Databases in other Government Agencies such as the Uganda Revenue Authority, Uganda Registration Services Bureau among others. This process will help to validate Leaders' Data as well as track the illicitly acquired assets which will in turn ease the process of investigations and asset recovery as the case may be.

It should also be noted that under the Act, there are three occasions when specified Leaders are required to declare their income, assets and liabilities to the Inspector General of Government (IGG), that is;

1. Three months after assuming a position of Leadership,
2. Thereafter every two years in the month of March.
3. On ceasing to be a leader

The IG has now developed three (3) Modules to cater for the needs of each of the above category of leaders.

Self-Registration Module: This is a module we are launching today and it will allow new leaders using **IGODS** for the first time to register their details into the system. The technical team will demonstrate how this works to you.

Self-Invitation Module: This module will allow Leaders who have used the **IGODS** before to initiate an “Invitation to Declare” and log in to start filling the Declaration Form. New Leaders already registered in the **IGODS** system can also use this module. This too will also be demonstrated today.

Hon. Minister we plan to launch this module (Self Invitation) early **2021** for use in the **March 2021** Declaration Period

Exit Declaration Module) this module enables Leaders who have ceased to be Leaders under the Leadership Code Act to fill an Exit Declaration which will be automatically submitted to the inactive database and be retrieved into the active database in case the Leader assumes another Leadership position. This will also be launched at the same time with the Self Invitation Module, although it is already available for use for those Leaders who are exiting in this season.

Hon. Minister, regrettably, most leaders do not comply with the requirement to declare within three months after assuming leadership positions. I therefore wish

to thank the Chairperson and Members of the Leadership Code Tribunal who have taken the initiative to lead from the front by submitting their Declarations today well before the three months elapse. We appeal to leaders who have assumed leadership positions as specified in the Second schedule of the Leadership code Act after the last Declaration of **March 2019** to make use of the Self Registration Module to access the Leadership Code Form to Declare and avoid being caught on the wrong side of the law. For clarity, any new leader who fails to declare within three months of Appointment is in breach of the Code and is liable to penalties as specified in the Act. The same applies to Leaders who exit leadership position and do not comply with the requirement as provided under section **4(3)** of the Act. We should all be aware that with the Electronic system and the Leadership Code Tribunal breaches will attract severe sanctions.

On our part as IG, we have planned to train IGODS Focal Persons in every institution and leaders required to declare in so far as circumstances will permit. Some training will be on Zoom and a schedule will be published in **January 2021**. We shall also use IG website, brochures, radios, TV, Print media and other channels to inform and appraise Leaders with the information to make the Declaration process easy and convenient.

Hon. Minister, as earlier briefed you, last week the IG also launched the Forensic Lab to bolster scientific analysis of evidence from computers and Mobile phones in fraud investigations. This is aimed at enabling the IG cope with current national and global information Technology trends which have taken cyber fraud to an entirely new level. Today we will have the opportunity, to take you together with the Chairperson and Members of the Tribunal for a tour of the Lab.

Let me conclude by once again thanking you Hon. Minister for spearheading the establishment of a fully constituted Leadership Code Tribunal which we see here today.

Thank you Chairperson and Members of the LC Tribunal for the energy you have brought to the fight against corruption. Soon, the synergy created by the IG and the LC Tribunal will be visible and evident to the citizens of this country.

Last but not least, I thank the staff of the Inspectorate of Government, the media and the entire public for your commitment and contribution towards the fight against corruption.

For God and my Country.

George Bamugemereire

DEPUTY INSPECTOR GENERAL OF GOVERNMENT