

ADDRESS ON THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE ANTI-CORRUPTION CAMPAIGN HELD ON 4TH NOVEMBER 2020 BY DIGG (MW) AT THE STATE HOUSE, ENTEBBE

Protocol

Background:

The United Nations (UN) General Assembly by resolution 58/4 of 31st October 2003, designated 9th December as the International Anti-Corruption Day for global observance to promote awareness about corruption, its dangers and how to combat and prevent it. The International Anti-Corruption Day is a time for governments, political leaders, lobby and interest groups, and the public to collaborate against corruption by reflecting on its evils and seeking consensus on measures to fight it.

The African Union Convention against Corruption ratified the day and since then a number of African countries have commemorated it.

Uganda signed and ratified two anti-corruption conventions, namely the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) and the African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption (AUCPCC).

For over a decade anticorruption groups, organizations and individual actors in Uganda have remodeled the anti - corruption day into a series of annual multi-activity advocacy event called the Anti-Corruption Campaign.

During the Campaign, various actors involved in the fight against corruption reflect on progress made against corruption and seek solutions for challenges; as well as raise public awareness on their need to join hands to eradicate the vice in the country. The campaign events climax on the International Anti-corruption Day designated for 9th December every year, usually with a public dialogue which may not be possible this year due challenges paused by COVID.

In context of the above, this year's campaign started in high gear focusing on strategic advocacy for establishment of the Leadership Code Tribunal. The Inspectorate of Government in collaboration with other Anti-Corruption Agencies through the Directorate of Ethics and Integrity lobbied the relevant stakeholders to ensure the establishment of the Tribunal.

The absence of the Tribunal had frustrated for a longtime, the efforts of the IG to enforce the leadership code of conduct hence losing many landmark cases involving breach of the leadership code.

Today I am happy to report that this year the Leadership Code Tribunal was established when H.E the President of the republic of Uganda, appointed and swore in members of the Tribunal.

I wish to thank the European Union for the support extended towards the operationalization of the Tribunal

I would like the public to know that the establishment of the Tribunal is a momentous achievement in the struggle against corruption because it will expedite the adjudication of cases involving the breach of the leadership code.

I would also like to inform the public that the establishment of the tribunal is clear confirmation of H.E the President's intolerance for Corruption and a loud voice that leaders must be accountable.

Still in that regard, the struggle continues, as the IG is still lobbying for the amendment of the leadership Code Act to reinstate the major breaches set out in Section 4(7) and (8) of the Penal Code Act and the non-alignment of penalties to the breaches in the code to ensure effective enforcement of the Leadership Code of Conduct.

The establishment of a Forensic Laboratory at the IG is another milestone in the fight against corruption because it is going to help us tackle sophisticated corruption cases in relation to digital crimes.

Further still, on 10th September 2020, the IG created a partnership with Directorate of Ethics & Integrity (DEI), Global Leadership Summit (GLS) and Inter Religious Council of Uganda (IRCU) to mainstream anti-corruption initiatives. In the presence of the Prime Minister, we signed a joint communique on the concerted efforts to fight corruption in Uganda and pledged to effectively collaborate to promote Integrity, Transparency and Accountability.

As a result of this initiative, IRCU wrote a pastoral letter with anti-corruption messages to be disseminated to citizens across the country.

In addition to the achievements above, this year, the IG in collaboration with OAG, PPDA, DEI, ODPP, JLOS, CID and SHACU, supported by GIZ, have organized an Anti-Corruption Campaign (ACC) under the theme “**Promoting Social Accountability through active citizenry**”.

GENERAL OBJECTIVE

The general objective of 2020 ACC is **to enhance citizens’ engagement and participation in the fight against corruption.**

Specific Objectives

1. Increase citizens’ awareness about their responsibilities and government’s efforts in fighting corruption.
2. Advocate for improved information sharing between government officials and citizens.
3. Empower citizens to access public information and effectively use it to monitor public service delivery and prevent corruption.
4. Create partnerships to mainstream anti-corruption initiative (Transparency, Accountability and Anti-Corruption-TAAC) in all MDA plans, projects, programmes and budgets.

To achieve the above objectives, ACAs are carrying out a series of activities that focus on civic engagement to ensure that ordinary citizens, Civil Societies and

Media are equipped with the relevant information and techniques they can use to hold Public Officials and servants accountable.

The activities are the following:

Launch of the Anti-Corruption Campaign

This event brings together all partners in the anti-corruption struggle to reflect on progress made against corruption and seek solutions for challenges; as well as raise public awareness on their need to join hands to eradicate the vice in the country.

The function is usually done in an open space where the public are invited to attend to allow interaction and information sharing between Anti-corruption Agencies and the public as well as getting feedback from the public.

However, this year the launch is taking place in a restricted environment due to the challenges posed by COVID19. Nonetheless, the Public will participate in this event through Radios, Television live broadcasts and social media channels.

Another unique and memorable thing about this year's launch is that the First Lady Hon. Janet Kataha Museveni is going to sign up as the National Champion ***Ambassador for Integrity*** Campaign.

Development and dissemination of the Pastoral letter

This will play a pivotal role in disseminating important anti-corruption messages from the different Religious and Faith leaders, to congregants and the government, and will go a long way to remind the different players of their role as well as inspire them to participate in the fight against corruption.

ACA Internal Integrity Campaign

This is aimed at promoting integrity and values-oriented service delivery among staff of the Anti-Corruption Agencies (ACAs).

The 2nd Justice Law and Order Sector (JLOS) Annual Anti-Corruption Forum (JAAF)

This aimed at reflecting on JLOS anti-corruption efforts that have yielded positive results, while highlighting outstanding gaps and devising appropriate strategies for the future

Radio Dramas

These are drama presentations to be aired on radios and they seek to educate and help people choose attitudes and lifestyles that strengthen social values as opposed to corrupt practices.

Radio and Television talk shows

In which citizens will be sensitized on their Civic duties and responsibilities as spelt out in Article 17 (1) (i) of The Constitution of the Republic of Uganda, 1995 (as amended).

Virtual Anti-Corruption Conference

Which is slated to take place on **9th December 2020** and will bring together Heads of Anti-corruption Agencies, select Senior Government Officials, Religious and faith Leaders, Media practitioners, Civil Society and citizens to reflect on the fight against corruption and discuss appropriate interventions.

Engagement with Cultural Institutions

In which ACAs will hold a dialogue with Cultural leaders aimed at stimulating cultural institutions to participate in the fight against corruption. The focus of the ACC 2020 will be on the Buganda Kingdom.

Partnership with National Debate Council (NDC)

To engage young people in the fight against corruption through getting them participate in Anti-Corruption Essay writing, poetry, art and song competitions.

The Ambassadors for Integrity Campaign

ACAs in partnership with GLS- Uganda, supported by GIZ will hold the 12th leadership summit for selected leaders including Top Management of ACAs. The summit focuses on **Ambassadors for Integrity Campaign**, which promotes individual and collective action to combat corruption in Uganda through training on values-based leadership. Leaders from across the spectrum of society are challenged to make a commitment to fight corruption in their spheres of influence. They do so by signing the *Ambassadors for Integrity Canvas* and personal commitment cards at the conclusion of every training thus becoming ***Ambassadors for Integrity***.

This year, after the Top Management of ACAs signing up as **Ambassadors for Integrity**, the campaign will be cascaded to all public officials starting with the partner Anti-corruption Agencies in what we have called the Internal Integrity Campaign.

CONCLUSION

We must realize that the Anti-Corruption Agencies cannot fight and win the battle against corruption alone; we need the citizens, Civil Society Organisation, media, religious and cultural leaders to play their respective roles.

Albert Einstein once said, ***“The world is a dangerous place, not because of those who do evil, but because of those who look on and do anything.”***

Before I take leave of my speech I wish to, at a personal level, deeply appreciate the First Lady for loving and supporting the women of Uganda particularly Muslim women. You have always stood with us. Last year you graced our occasion as Chief Guest, marking Women’s Day at Uganda Moslem Supreme Council (UMSC) Headquarters at Old Kampala. You also funded all activities making that occasion, and further made a hefty contribution towards our revolving fund. May Almighty Allah reward you abundantly.

Finally, I call upon fellow Ugandans not to keep quiet but speak out whenever you witness acts of corruption being committed.