

REMARKS BY DEPUTY IGG AT STAKEHOLDERS ENGAGEMENT MEETING IN WESTERN UGANDA

Protocol

- The District Chairperson
- The Chief Administrative Officer
- The Resident District Commissioner
- The District Speaker
- The District Police Commander
- The District Internal Security Officer
- The District Councilors
- The Heads of Departments
- The representative from DANIDA
- The representatives from partner Civil Society Organizations
- Staff of the IG
- Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is my pleasure to yet again join you this morning/ afternoon in this stakeholders' engagement meeting taking place in the District Council hall.

Last year, on 15th July 2019, I opened a two days sensitization workshop for district leaders and CSO's in the Ankole sub region. This workshop was attended by District Chairpersons, CAOs, RDCs, District Planners and District Community Development Officers from 10 District Local Governments which included Mbarara, Ntungamo, Isingiro, Ibanda, Kiruhura, Bushenyi, Buhweju, Mitooma, Sheema and Rubirizi. The main objective of that workshop was to introduce Strengthening Accountability Transparency and Anti-Corruption (STAAC) and Community Responsibility to Enhancing Transparency and

Accountability (CRETA) in Ankole sub region and make district leaders aware of this IG initiative. I am happy to note that the workshop was excellently attended and I am informed that the district leaders welcomed and appreciated the initiatives. Thank you very much.

Today, we come here to remind you of the same program and to ask you to continue supporting the initiatives in Akole. The IG has extended this programme, first, to 5 districts of Mbarara, Isingiro, Ntungamo, Ibanda and Kiruhura. Later when funds permit, the same program will be rolled out to the remaining 5 districts of Bushenyi, Mitooma, Sheema, Buhweju and Rubirizi, covering the entire Ankole sub region.

STAAC and CRETA initiatives are very instrumental if Government has to deliver on its mandate. There is need for increased monitoring of government programs in the region because what the public expects from all of us here is effective and efficient service delivery.

This STAAC/ CRETA program in Ankole sub region is facilitated by the Inspectorate of Government with support from DANIDA under DANIDA Uganda Programme for Governance, Rights, Accountability and Democracy (UPGRADE). At this point, I would like to recognize and thank the representative from DANIDA for having spared your valuable time to come and be with us in this stakeholder meeting. I am sure you will appreciate that the funds DANIDA extended to the IG are being used for the right cause.

Through this program of Strengthening Transparency, Accountability and Anti-Corruption, the Inspectorate of Government works with Civil Society Organizations (CSO's) to

increase citizens awareness and empower them to demand accountability for government programs.

On 31st January 2020, the IG signed Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) with 4 partner CSOs namely; Agency for Cooperation in Research and Development (ACORD), Justice is a Right (JIAR), South Western Institute for Policy and Advocacy (SOWIPA), Western Ankole Civil Society Forum (WACSOF). This collaboration was/is meant to help in implementation of TAAC activities. Currently these CSOs are helping in selecting Community Monitoring Groups members (CMGs) who will later on be trained on how to monitor Government Programs.

Our collaboration with CSO's fits squarely within the IG Strategic Plan 2015-2020. Strategic objective 5 is to strengthen the appreciation of the IG's mandate by conducting public awareness interventions and leveraging strategic partnerships for outcome. It is also in line with Article 225(1)(b) of the Constitution of Uganda and Section 8(f) of the Inspectorate of Government Act, 2002 which mandate the Inspectorate of Government to *"stimulate public awareness about the values of constitutionalism in general and activities of the office in particular"*.

Through such engagements the IG expects to have increased demand for accountability by stakeholders and increased willingness of the public to report and provide information. We have recorded great success using this model in the implementation of NUSAF III to the extent which has resulted in programs like these.

The Inspectorate of Government uses both enforcement and preventive/proactive measures to fight corruption. The preventive measures include promoting: (i) community level transparency; (ii) systems of immediate reporting of grievances; (iii) collaboration with anti-corruption agencies; (iv) support of audit, financial and procurement management systems at all levels of implementation; (v) built-in mechanisms of rewards and sanctions; (vi) participatory monitoring tools; (vii) rapid results initiatives; (viii) development communication; and (ix) gender mainstreaming.

Based on the realization that the IG cannot work alone and incorporating the successes of TAAC-NUSAFII, we have engaged different partners at different levels for effectiveness in the implementation of the program.

In light of the above, the IG leadership decided to visit 5 districts of Mbarara, Isingiro, Ntungamo, Ibanda and Kiruhura for an engagement with the district political and technical leaders about citizen participation in the fight against corruption, raise awareness and secure commitment to support ongoing TAAC activities from all stakeholders. As I speak now Community Monitoring Groups (CMGs) are being formed at various community levels and we expect that this CMGs selection will result in 4,464 CMG members in total from all the 5 districts.

Expected CMG Members per district

District	No. Of CMG Members
Mbarara	738
Ntungamo	1,152
Isingiro	1,098
Ibanda	648
Kiruhura	828

Totals	4,464
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The Inspectorate of Government is expectant that this stakeholder engagement will leverage on the strengths of the district leaders and the CSOs such as strong community presence, trust and community participation to achieve the strategic objective and outputs of the Inspectorate as mentioned above, particularly enhance the communities' capacity to demand for accountability and ultimately ensure effective service delivery for the public. Therefore, participation and support of all district leaders and other stakeholders in promoting transparency and accountability in the implementation of Government programs through various interventions is very key.

Once again, I would like to thank the CSOs for partnering with the IG to mobilize the communities. Special thanks go to DANIDA for funding this activity under its collaboration initiative with non-state actors. To you district leaders, thank you for sparing your time to come for this meeting and the success of this intervention relies on your support and collaboration. I would also like to thank the team from the IG for coordinating these efforts.

It is now my pleasure and honor to declare this meeting open and to wish you all fruitful deliberations.

For God and My Country