



REMARKS BY THE IGG AT THE LAUNCH OF THE ANTI-CORRUPTION CAMPAIGN 2017.

The 3rd Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for East African Affairs

The Minister of State for Ethics and Integrity

Heads of Anti-Corruption Agencies

Representatives of Development Partners

Honourable MPs

Ladies and Gentlemen

It is a great honor and pleasure to be with you on this significant occasion of launching the Anti-Corruption Campaign 2017. Allow me to first of all welcome and thank all of you for accepting to participate in this event. Your attendance indeed demonstrates your commitment not only in your respective capacities as leaders but also as citizens.

As you may be aware, today's event is one of the diverse activities that the Anti-Corruption Agencies will be implementing during this year's Anti-Corruption Campaign that has been flagged off. The Inspectorate of Government values the role of the inter-agency collaboration and thus works with the different stakeholders in implementation of activities. We work with the general public, private sector, Civil Society Organizations, Youth and Faith-Based Organizations as part of our efforts to establish and strengthen

partnerships in discharging the enormous responsibility that the people of Uganda have bestowed upon us.

As part of the activities to commemorate the International Anti-Corruption Week 2017, the IG and other Anti-corruption Agencies commenced a National campaign under the theme **“Restoring Integrity in Public Service; Regaining Citizens Trust in the Anti-Corruption Fight.”**. During this period, the IG, OAG, DEI and PPDA are holding boardroom discussions with representatives from various sectors. So far, we have interacted with staff of the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Works and Transport and Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development.

We are pleased to note that representation at the boardroom sessions was at a very high level and included Ministers, the Deputy Governor of the Bank of Uganda, Permanent Secretaries, other Accounting Officers, Directors, Heads of Department and other staff from the various sectors visited. Some of the key observations that we took from the meetings are as follows:

Health Sector

- In the Ministry of Health, it was noted that systems and internal control mechanisms are ineffective;
- The numerous projects funded by different sources have become a source of conflict and mismanagement as well as corruption; and that;
- The current structure of MOH can no longer cope with the demands of a growing population.

Proposed intervention

The IG will conduct a broad and detailed systems study and make appropriate recommendations in this regard. In the alternative, Government should carry out an assessment of the structures and

come up with one that will meet the needs of the growing population of Uganda.

Accountability Sector

- Commission agents came out as one of the most glaring challenge the IAF will have to deal with in order to curb losses that arise out of corruption in procurement for large GOU contracts.
- It was stated that commission agents make projects very expensive and drive corruption in MDAs.
- Political interference in procurement was another factor named to be driving corruption and causing loss to government.

Proposed intervention

The IG will follow up with UIA to create awareness and improve transparency in investment processes and procedures. Political leaders will also be sensitized on the deleterious effects of influence peddling and coercion of accounting officers in the process of procuring service providers; especially contractors for the high spend government contracts.

- Internal Audit and Risk management functions are still very weak across all of Government.

Proposed intervention

IG together with the other Anti-Corruption Agencies will continue to advocate for the strengthening of the Internal Audit and Risk management functions in Government.

Construction Sector

- The close interaction between staff in Procurement Units and suppliers/bidders was identified as one of the main drivers of corruption in the construction sector.
- Weak or ill formed processes were said to drive corruption. The failure to enforce sanctions against errant officers was identified as the cause of impunity which drives corruption in this sector.
- The complexity of the works and the contracts that arise means that the sometimes the clients do not understand what their rights are, leading to spiraling of prices through variations, sometimes in collusion with government officials.

Proposed intervention

PPDA proposes to introduce e-procurement across government. This may reduce the interaction between staff in PDU and contractors and thereby reduce opportunities for collusion and corruption.

There is need for leaders in the MOWT to put in place internal mechanisms to fight corruption in the construction sector from within.

Strategic interventions by IG towards effective service delivery since the last Commemoration of Anti-Corruption Day

1. The IG has developed an electronic web based declaration system code named- IG-ODS and was fully implemented in March 2017. The IG-ODS enables leaders to submit their declarations online. The Leadership Code (declaration form) made the IG-ODS operational and mandatory effective 1st June 2016. The IG no longer receives manual forms from leaders. Despite the challenges of low levels of computer literacy , incorrect particulars of leaders submitted to IG which hampered access of the IG-ODS form by leaders among

others, the IG-ODS was overwhelmingly supported and successful achieving **90.4 %**(22,587) compliance level against the expected number of leaders of 25,000.

The Leadership Code (Amendment) Act 2017 establishing the Leadership Code Tribunal was passed into law. Once constituted, the Tribunal will complement the IG in enforcing the Leadership Code through adjudication of breaches of the Leadership Code.

2. The IG has re-strategized to leverage the Ombudsman function to enhance the capacity of MDALGs to identify and resolve underlying drivers of complaints at source. Complaints related to maladministration and poor governance are often due to or related to certain underlying reasons, usually the failure of systems to manage the day to day business of the MDA and LGs. If unchecked, this creates a window for corruption and impunity to blossom. The IG will enhance the capacity to identify and resolve underlying drivers of complaints where they arise. Working with the Ministry of Public Service, all MDA/LGs will be encouraged to establish internal mechanisms to resolve complaints at source and train their personnel to analyze and deal with the root causes of those complaints. The IG will also implement mechanisms to monitor and evaluate complaint handling in the MDA/LGs, to reduce complaints that result from poorly addressed root causes and those not addressed at all.
3. The IG has created an Asset Recovery Unit to institute proceedings in courts of law to recover tainted property or enforce orders for compensation granted by courts. Even where the property has been spirited out of Uganda we will

follow it in order to recompense the losses sustained by government.

4. Together with the Directorate for Ethics and Integrity in the Office of the President, the IG is working on a law to facilitate non-conviction based asset recovery. This will enable the IG and other ACAs to go after tainted assets without necessarily first prosecuting persons suspected of having engaged in corrupt activities in government. The advantage of this is that the ACAs will not be going after persons but after the tainted property in order to make more recoveries under civil processes. Efforts are being made to educate the relevant stakeholders including the office of the Attorney General and Members of Parliament. The IG and DEI are making arrangements for the sensitization on this important aspect of anti-corruption work to begin.
5. The IG is also in partnership with Anti-Corruption Authorities in neighboring countries making informal arrangements to track and recover assets that are stolen from Uganda. This has become necessary because the formal methods of accessing Mutual Legal Assistance (MLAs) are complicated and they take a very long time. This is being done under the auspices of the Asset Recovery Interagency Network of Eastern Africa (ARIN-EA) which was formed by members of the East African Association of Anti-Corruption Authorities (EAAACA). The Association at present has 7 members and cooperates with ARINSA (the South African Network) and CARIN the European Network, as well as the network in the Pacific. This will enable the IG to better track and recover stolen assets all over the world.

6. The IG has developed and implemented a citizen engagement program for monitoring government projects in the 55 districts where the Northern Uganda Social Action Fund (NUSAF) is being disbursed. Because of the success achieved in the program carried out in NUSAF II in which with support of the World Bank the IG was able to mobilize communities to demand for accountability so stemming loss and improving accountability. Government, through the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), proposed that the principles used in the IG's Transparency, Accountability and Anti-Corruption Component of NUSAFII be used in the monitoring of government programs across government. The IG is therefore in discussions with the OPM to see how the same principles can be applied across government in the monitoring of projects.
7. The IG is committed to strengthening the collaboration with other Anti-Corruption Agencies and Development Partners and the number of partners that IG deals with continues to grow.

Before I conclude, I would like to express the IG's appreciation to all the Development Partners that have supported and continue to support our efforts. We are grateful for the support rendered by DANIDA, GIZ, DFID, UNDP, the World Bank and all other partners that support our programs.

We are also grateful for the extra support that has been given by the Government of Uganda whenever we have expressed need beyond our budget allocations. Parliament has been supportive in taking our messages in this regard and we pledge to continue improving ways in which we are combating corruption and maladministration.

As I conclude, my sincere call is that we should all join together to **Restore Integrity in Public Service; and Regain Citizens Trust**

in the Fight against Anti-Corruption. Each one of us should play his or her role at whatever level to contribute to this noble cause. I thank you all once again for attending this launch and look forward to your active collaboration in the fight against corruption.

I thank you for coming here in large numbers and for listening to me.

For God and my Country!