

SPEECH OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL OF GOVERNMENT, LADY JUSTICE IRENE MULYAGONJA KAKOOZA ON THE LAUNCH OF THE 2017 DECLARATION PERIOD HELD ON 1ST MARCH 2017 IN MASAKA DISTRICT.

Your Excellency the Vice President of the Republic of Uganda
The Minister of State for Ethics and Integrity
Hon. Members of Parliament
The Resident District Commissioner, Masaka District
The District Chairperson, Masaka District
Heads of Partner Institution in the Accountability Sector
The Chief Administrative Officer and other Leaders present
Representatives of our Development Partners
Members of the Press
Staff of the Inspectorate of Government,
Ladies and Gentlemen

It is my pleasure to welcome you all to this ceremony in which we are launching the 2017 Declaration Period. The declaration of leader's income, assets and liabilities is currently being done using the Inspectorate of Government Online Declaration System (IG-ODS).

Your Excellency, 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 (2002) provides for minimum standards of behavior and conduct of leaders; 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**.

Your Excellency, since the enactment of the leadership code Act, leaders have filling and submitting paper declarations of their income, assets and liabilities to the IGG The Inspectorate of Government used to receive

over 25,000 (twenty five thousand) forms from leaders during every declaration period. This manual system had a lot of challenges which included; high costs for procuring, distributing, collecting and storage of forms as well as time wasting, as leaders had to travel long distances and queuing at the IG offices to deliver the form.

In order to address the above challenges and also adopt with current national and international information technology trends, the IG developed the Online Declaration System (IG-ODS). The system enables the leaders to submit their declarations online making it easy for the information to be processed, analysed and stored electronically.

Given this development, we are no longer accepting hard copies/paper declaration forms from leaders regardless of who you are.

The IG-ODS is operationalised by the Electronic Transaction Act, 2011 and Leadership Code (Declaration Form) Regulations, 2016. The system has been in operation since June 2016 and so far a total of **11,772** leaders have been sent invitations to declare. Of those invited, a total of 1,404 leaders have been able to successfully submit their declarations of income, assets and liabilities online while 2,528 leaders are in the process of completing the submission process. This implies that **33.4%** of the leaders invited have so far have successfully used the IG-ODS.

Your Excellency, a number of benefits have been realized from the use of IG-ODS which include but are not limited to the following;-

- i) The system is fast, efficient and effective, hence less costly.
- ii) Leaders are able to submit their declarations from anywhere in the world, as long as there is internet connectivity. In other words, they no longer have to physically queue at the IG offices.
- iii) It has also been found to be considerably cheaper for both the Leaders and the IG, because printing costs, transport costs and data entry costs have greatly reduced.
- iv) Because of the way it has been developed, it is safe and secure.
- v) It also solves the problem of incomplete declarations. Unlike the manual system where some leaders would submit incomplete forms, the IG-ODS has checks that will not allow incomplete forms

to be submitted. A submission of an incomplete form is automatically rejected by the system.

The IG acknowledges that the online declaration system may present challenges and has endeavored to put in place measures to mitigate them as follows;-

- (i) The IG has identified a Focal Contact Person in each Ministry, Department, Agency and Local Governments (MDALG), who offers support to leaders on how to operate the IG-ODS to declare. In most cases the Focal Contact persons are the Accounting Officers or Officers nominated by the Accounting Officers.
- (ii) Training of Focal Persons as well as some leaders has also been conducted to demonstrate how the application works as well as to demystify the IG-ODS
- (iii) The IG has a support team which attends to leader's queries and can be contacted through phone calls and email for help and support. This is in addition to our 16 (sixteen) Regional Offices including the one located in Masaka District.

Declarations of income, assets and liabilities by leaders is a mitigation measure in the fight against corruption as it may expose leaders who have illegally acquired wealth.

It is important to note that leaders who fail to declare to the IGG are in breach of the leadership code Act which is an offence and risk losing their leadership position.

In conclusion, I would like to thank Government, Officials of Masaka District Local Government, Development Partners, the staff of the IG, and the entire public for your commitment and contribution towards the fight against corruption.

Thank you. For God and my Country.

Irene Mulyagonja Kakooza

INSPECTOR GENERAL OF GOVERNMENT