

**JOINT COMMUNIQUÉ ON THE CONCERTED EFFORTS TO FIGHT
CORRUPTION IN UGANDA BY THE INTER RELIGIOUS COUNCIL OF
UGANDA, THE INSPECTORATE OF GOVERNMENT, DIRECTORATE FOR
ETHICS AND INTEGRITY TOGETHER WITH THE GLOBAL LEADERSHIP
SUMMIT UGANDA.**

Preamble

WHEREAS the Inspectorate of Government and the Directorate for Ethics and Integrity have reached out to the Inter Religious Council of Uganda and the Global Leadership Summit Uganda, in line with their strategic objectives to build strategic partnerships in the fight against corruption;

We, the Religious Leaders from the Inter Religious Council of Uganda (IRCU), in partnership with the Inspectorate of Government (IG), Directorate for Ethics and Integrity (DEI) and the Global Leadership Summit (GLS) Uganda, convened at Lake Victoria Serena Resort, from 7th to 11th September 2020 to strengthen the fight against corruption in Uganda by leveraging the platform of Religious Leaders.

Aware that:

The needs of the citizens and the private sector are not adequately addressed due to weak performance, low accountability for results and unsatisfactory work ethic in the public sector. As indicated in the Third National Development Plan, a major hindrance to sustainable development is caused by the fact that many Ugandans consider self-interests before and above Public Good, including some public officials, who are devoid of any sense of duty and responsibility. This not only breeds conflict of interest and corruption, but also, drastically undercuts the Government's performance, leading to economic loss and disruptions in public service delivery.

Recognizing that:

The Government of Uganda has placed considerable emphasis on the development and reform of the Legal and Institutional Framework, to strengthen the fight against corruption in Uganda. Institutions and legislation have been put in place to ensure greater accountability to tackle corruption. However, it is evident that there are significant weaknesses in the accountability cycle and resistance to effective accountability.

Acknowledging that:

Ugandans desire transparent, accountable and faithful stewardship from the Religious leaders as well as duty bearers.

Noting that:

The general public has not effectively participated in the fight against corruption and the corrupt are at times applauded for being ingenious. Where citizens fail to hold public servants accountable for their actions, efforts by Government cannot yield the intended results. While the general public detests corruption, often the same public express support to the corrupt, once they are arrested and prosecuted. Furthermore, peer pressure from the public on the need to amass wealth, leads to high tendencies of corruption.

Concerned that:

The human and financial resources to fight corruption are limited, the Anti-Corruption Laws are not sufficiently implemented and the recommendations by Anti-Corruption Agencies are not effectively implemented.

Hereby pledge:

To effectively collaborate to promote integrity, transparency and accountability in Uganda.

We accordingly Resolve to:

- A. Build capacity of Religious and Faith leaders, Duty Bearers and the Media to champion the virtues of integrity, transparency and accountability.
- B. Apply the platforms of Religious and Faith Organizations to advance and promote the transmission and dissemination of Anti-Corruption Messages and foster values of integrity amongst their congregants.
- C. Train and empower citizens of Uganda to fight corruption, demand accountability and promote transparency.
- D. Advocate for:
 - a. Values of integrity and accountability as part of the School Curriculum;
 - b. Witness Protection legislation, and;
 - c. Non Conviction-Based Asset Recovery Law.

We accordingly call upon the Government of Uganda to:

- i) Enact legislation on witness protection
- ii) Enact legislation on non conviction-based asset recovery.
- iii) Institutionalize an integrity curriculum in primary schools.

We equally call upon the citizens of Uganda to:

- i) Participate in the fight against corruption by monitoring implementation of public projects to ensure transparency and accountability
- ii) Desist from violence and reject bribery in the ongoing electoral process.

We call upon the duty bearers to:

- i) Recognise that they hold their respective offices and positions in trust for the people of Uganda and not for their personal gain.
- ii) Faithfully steward Government resources and serve with commitment.
- iii) Always execute their duties with integrity and transparency.

With this Joint Communiqué, We the Inter Religious Council of Uganda, the Inspectorate of Government, the Directorate for Ethics and Integrity and the Global Leadership Summit Uganda, commit to partner in the promotion of Integrity, Transparency and Accountability for sustainable development in Uganda.

Signed this 10th day of **September 2020 in the Presence of the:**

THE RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER OF UGANDA

HON. DR. RUHAKANA RUGUNDA

DIRECTORATE FOR ETHICS AND INTEGRITY

HON. REV. FR. SIMON LOKODO
Minister of State for Ethics and Integrity

INSPECTORATE OF GOVERNMENT

GEORGE N. BAMUGEMEREIRE
Deputy Inspector General of Government

INTER – RELIGIOUS COUNCIL OF UGANDA

HIS EMINENCE SHEIKH SHABAN RAMADHAN MUBAJE
Grand Mufti of Uganda
Uganda Muslim Supreme Council
Chairperson, Council of Presidents, IRCU

GLOBAL LEADERSHIP SUMMIT – UGANDA

Ms. BETTY RUTARE BYANYIMA
Country Lead,
Global Leadership Summit Uganda