



PRESS RELEASE

Tuesday 20th December 2022

As we approach the close of the Year, I wish to thank all those people and institutions that supported the IG register considerable success during 2022 and in a special way, I recognize the media for being dedicated partners.

We are grateful for the support of the Executive, Parliament, and Judiciary for their support. During the FY 2022/23, the IG budget was raised by nearly 40% from the previous years – thanks to the consensus between the Executive and Parliament. We are grateful to our International partners and funders – the World Bank, DANIDA & GIZ among others who have supplemented our budget.

We are grateful to the media in general who have aggressively reported on cases of corruption and availed free airtime in talk shows and print space whenever we called on you.

But most important, we are grateful to whistleblowers, some of them anonymous, who have led the IG to investigate, recover and even sanction wrongdoers – whistleblowers are priceless because they give our work direction.... many times at no cost.

We are grateful for the goodwill, appreciation, and cheering we get from the public for our work, which has led to some successes during the year 2022 some of which are listed below:

- Recovery of UGX 30B
- Investigation of cases worth UGX 500B is ongoing
- Interdiction of about 50 public servants, most of them CAOs and some IG staff who did not meet our standards of impeccable integrity
- Prosecution of 86 cases and secured 34 convictions
- Halted procurement, recruitment and other activities in government institutions that would have led to loss of public funds

- Stepped up engagement with the public through barazas and outreach programs – eg. IRCU, ULGA, KCCA, District Chairpersons etc.

Downside

However, like with most success stories, there will usually be a downside and the downside of the above success is when the IG or Court issues the above Orders and sometimes they are not fully implemented. People who are ordered by Court or the IG to refund money take their time, Orders to interdict are sometimes not carried out, Orders to halt suspicious transactions like procurement are undermined etc. This non-strict implementation of IG or Court Orders arising out of IG prosecutions, leads to an appearance of impunity which in turn promotes lack or loss of public confidence in the capacity of the IG to deliver on its mandate. They think the IG does not bite.

Launch of IG Follow-Up Unit

It is for this reason that the IG management has decided to establish a fully-fledged **Follow-Up Unit** whose full-time assignment is to follow up and ensure that all IG Recommendations and Court Orders arising out of IG prosecutions are implemented to the letter. The Unit will be headed by a person at the rank of Manager, which in IG hierarchy is a very senior position and will report directly to the IG.

The purpose of this press briefing therefore, is to officially launch the new **IG FOLLOW-UP UNIT**.

It is now my honour and pleasure to introduce members of the unit:

1. Mr. Victor Acidri - Manager and Team leader
2. Mr. Ariko Simon - Supervisor
3. Ms Zawedde Jemimah - Inspectorate Officer
4. Ms Juliana Nantale Batte - Inspectorate Officer
5. Mr. Gumisiriza Winfred - Inspectorate Officer
6. Ms Nakkazi Diana Mirembe -Inspectorate Officer

This team has been carefully selected for their competence, hard work and integrity; they are incorruptible.

Way forward

I call upon people especially public officers and political leaders who have been ordered either by the IG or Court to perform any function arising out IG investigations to report to this team and update their records. Some people were ordered to refund money in a given period, some were ordered to fire, interdict, suspend, demote, transfer or warn suspects but they did not. Some people were ordered to confiscate, caveat or dispose of property, some were ordered to report back to the IG on actions taken – many of these people, mainly public servants have ignored the orders because there was no follow-up mechanism. If you fall in any of the above category, you are advised to report to the IG Follow-Up Unit and update your response to the Orders in a period not exceeding two months from today, after which names of debtors and defaulters will be published in the media and vigorous collection done at the

defaulters cost.

Public officers who do not carry out IG or Court Orders arising out of IG prosecutions will be charged with incompetence, insubordination, neglect of duty, abuse of office or abuse of authority. I, therefore, advise anybody who is sitting on IG or Court Orders arising out of IG prosecutions to take this notice seriously

An official notice will be placed through appropriate channels.

Whistleblowers Reward Programme

Finally, I remind the general public that the IG operates a Whistleblowers Reward Program sanctioned under the Whistleblowers' Act, in which anybody who reports an act of corruption which leads to investigation and recovery of public funds is entitled to 5% of the funds recovered, so I call upon the general public to be "your brother's/sister's keeper" and report all acts of corruption which include abuse of office, abuse of authority, procurement malpractices, under or non-declaration of taxes and utility user fees, ghost workers and ghost consumers, purchase of air, inflation of prices etc.

Report them to the IG and you will get a reward for any funds recovered.

Conclusion

2023 is going to be a year of increased activity especially through the lifestyle audits, we call upon all the people of Uganda to join the war against corruption in order to redeem Uganda from the shackles of poverty inflicted by corruption.

On behalf of the IG I wish all Ugandans and people of goodwill towards Uganda a Merry Christmas and prosperous New Year 2023.