



THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Directorate for Ethics and Integrity

**SPEECH OF THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR ETHICS AND
INTEGRITY AT THE LAUNCH OF THE INSPECTORATE OF
GOVERNMENT STRATEGIC PLAN**

29TH JULY 2021

Hon. Akello Rose Lilly (MP)

Minister of State for Ethics & Integrity

The Deputy Inspector General of Government;

The Secretary, Inspectorate of Government;

The Chairperson, IG Strategic Plan,

The Directors, Heads of Department and Officers of the Inspectorate of Government;

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am honoured to preside over this online launch of the Strategic Plan for the Inspectorate of Government, to cover five years from 2020/21 to 2024/25, which is focused on increasing citizen's trust in public office. As we all know, the fight against corruption is a priority of Government, therefore the eyes of the public are focused on the Anti-Corruption Agencies, which take the lead in the fight against corruption.

I appreciate the achievements of the Inspectorate of Government, such as the improvement in handling case backlog, the increase in investigating high-profile corruption cases, as well as the increase in the verification of the declarations of leaders. My request to you is to strengthen the following areas:

1. EXPEDITING OF INVESTIGATIONS

I have worked with the District Local Governments, and I have often received complaints about the delays by the Inspectorate of Government in carrying out its investigations, completing them and communicating its decision. The delay causes dissatisfaction amongst the public, especially at Regional level. I request that the process of investigation be expedited to its conclusion and communication made to the relevant parties, so that justice is not delayed.

2. INCREASING PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN FIGHTING CORRUPTION

As you rightly stated in your Report, there is a lot of public apathy in the fight against corruption. We need to do more work in sensitizing the public, for example in monitoring the public projects in their Sub-Counties, and in holding their local leaders accountable. This will increase their trust in Government's commitment to the fight against corruption.

I am happy with the Inspectorate's use of the Transparency, Accountability and Anti-corruption (TAAC) intervention, through increased involvement with Civil Society Organisations and Community Monitoring Groups. This intervention should be extended to all Regions of Uganda.

3. EMPHASIZING THE PREVENTIVE APPROACH IN FIGHTING CORRUPTION

We have enacted a number of laws to enforce anti-corruption measures. For example, the Leadership Code Act has just been amended to require all public officers to declare their income, assets and liabilities to the IGG within three months after commencement of the Act, within three months after appointment to the Public Service, and thereafter every five years during the month of April.

All the Public Officers in all the Districts of Uganda must be sensitized about this law, and what is required of them. I am aware that the Inspectorate has communicated to the Chief Administrative Officers of the various Districts. However, we have been under lock-down for almost two months, hence even the CAOs could not have communicated to all their staff, who are unable to access their offices due to Covid-19 restrictions.

It is the duty of the Inspectorate to ensure that this information about the legal requirement for the declaration of income, assets and liabilities reaches Public Officers in all the Villages, Sub-Counties and Counties. This should be through radio programmes broadcast

on the local Radio Stations. I would like this sensitization programme to commence as soon as possible, so that our people are not found in breach of a law of which they are not aware.

Furthermore, on 6th July 2021 I signed the Leadership Code (Declaration Form) Regulations 2021, which prescribe the Declaration Form. The Regulations specify that all Declarations must be filled in and submitted electronically. One of the challenges that our Public Officers will face is access to computers and to the internet. This is really hard in some of our areas. We must therefore work hard, in coordination with the Local Governments, to ensure that the Public Officers even in the remotest obtain access to computers and the internet.

RESPONSE TO CHALLENGES

I have noted the challenges that the Inspectorate of Government is facing. These challenges will be discussed further with the relevant Authorities, and solutions obtained. As the Minister in charge of coordinating National efforts in the fight against corruption, I confirm my commitment to ensure that the Anti-Corruption Agencies are well-facilitated in terms of financial and human resources, as well as capacity building to keep up with the current technology.

I warmly congratulate the Inspectorate of Government upon this achievement. Let me take this opportunity to warmly thank the Ms. Mariam Wangadya for her exemplary service as Deputy IGG, and for having steered the Inspectorate to all these achievements. I wish you success with your new well-deserved appointment as Chairperson of the Uganda Human Rights Commission.

It is now my pleasure to officially launch the Inspectorate of Government Strategic Plan 2020/2021 – 2024/25.

For God and my Country.

Hon. Akello Rose Lilly

MINISTER OF STATE FOR ETHICS AND INTEGRITY