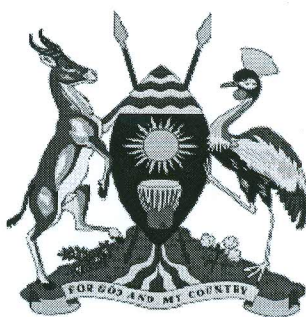




THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Directorate for Ethics and Integrity

**OFFICIAL CLOSURE OF THE SENSITIZATION PROGRAMME
FOR THE NEWLY ELECTED LEADERS, ON THE DECLARATION
OF INCOME, ASSETS AND LIABILITIES**

29TH JULY 2021

Hon. Akello Rose Lilly(MP)

Minister of State for Ethics & Integrity

Your Excellency the Vice President;

The Deputy Inspector General of Government;

The Secretary, Inspectorate of Government;

All Newly Elected Leaders in your respective capacities,

The Director Leadership Code; Inspectorate of Government;

Officials of the Inspectorate of Government and the Directorate for Ethics and Integrity;

All protocol observed;

I thank all the newly elected Leaders for giving us their time and attention to attend to this very important engagement, whose importance cannot be over-emphasized. The purpose of the Leadership Code Act is to provide a minimum standard of behaviour and conduct for Leaders and Public Officers, as a measure in the fight against corruption.

I wish to emphasize the following points:

1. The Leadership Code Act 2002 requires all Leaders to declare their income, assets and liabilities to the IGG within three months after becoming a Leader, and thereafter every two years, during the month of March.
2. The Leadership Code (Amendment) Act 2017 established the Leadership Code Tribunal, to adjudicate cases of breach of the Leadership Code of Conduct.
3. The Leadership Code (Amendment) Act 2021 widened the ambit of those supposed to declare. With effect from 7th May 2021 when the Act came into force, all Public Officers of whatever rank must declare their income, assets and liabilities to the IGG within three months after commencement of the Act, and thereafter every five years during the month of April.
4. One of the first duties I carried out as Minister of State for Ethics and Integrity was to sign the Leadership Code (Declaration Form)

Regulations 2021, which contain the prescribed Declaration Form for the declarations of income, assets and liabilities by both Leaders and Public Officers. The Regulations were gazetted and published as Statutory Instrument No. 44 of 2021; and they revoke the earlier Regulations of 2019. The Regulations specify that all forms must be filled in and submitted electronically.

It is desirable that we use the preventive approach in enforcing the law, other than the punitive approach. That is why I am requesting all my fellow Leaders to comply with the provisions of the law by filling in and submitting your declarations to the IGG within the specified time. In the famous case of *John Ken Lukyamuzi vs Attorney General and Electoral Commission*, Justice Jotham Tumwesigye of the Supreme Court stated that;

“When the IGG is conducting an investigation or any inquiry concerning suspected breach of the Leadership Code, and he or she discovers evidence of corruption and abuse of office, there is nothing to stop him or her from conducting a prosecution in respect of the case being investigated if he or she chooses to do so.”

I would not like any Leader or Public Officer to reach the stage of being prosecuted by the IGG before the Leadership Code Tribunal, for breach of the Leadership Code of Conduct. The punishments for breach, under Section 35(1)(b) of the Leadership Code (Amendment) Act 2021 include the payment of a fine, withholding of emoluments, warning, demotion and dismissal from office.

Furthermore, Section 20(7) of the Act as amended, provides as follows:

“A leader or a public officer who is dismissed or removed from office as a result of the decision of the Tribunal shall not hold any other public office whether appointive or elective for a period of five years from the date of dismissal or removal from office.”

I therefore appeal to all Leaders and Public Officers to comply with this mandatory requirement of the law, so as to lead by example. On

our part, the Directorate for Ethics and Integrity will work together with the Inspectorate of Government to ensure that all Public Officers countrywide are sensitized about this legal obligation. In view of the Covid-19 restrictions, we shall use radio, television and other media to reach out to them.

I thank the Inspectorate of Government for organizing this sensitization programme for the new leaders. Let us work together as Leaders to strengthen transparency, accountability and anti-corruption systems, as provided under the Governance and Security Programme of the NDPIII.

For God and my Country.

Hon. Akello Rose Lilly

MINISTER OF STATE FOR ETHICS AND INTEGRITY