



## **IG PRESS BRIEF**

**IG INVESTIGATIONS ON MISAPPROPRIATION OF UGX. 9BN (NINE BILLION) BY OFFICIALS OF MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, ANIMAL INDUSTRY & FISHERIES (MAAIF), BUKALASA AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE (BAC) AND FISHERIES TRAINING INSTITUTE (FTI) AND CORRUPTION OF UGX 1BN (ONE BILLION) AT UGANDA BUREAU OF STATISTICS (UBOS)**

**(A) MISAPPROPRIATION OF UGX. 9 (NINE BILLION) BY OFFICIALS  
OF MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, ANIMAL INDUSTRY &  
FISHERIES (MAAIF), BUKALASA AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE  
(BAC) AND FISHERIES TRAINING INSTITUTE (FTI) UNDER  
HQT/02/10/2021**

In October, 2021 the Inspectorate of Government received an allegation from a whistle Blower to the effect that a total of Ugx. 9Bn was mismanaged by officials of Ministry of Agriculture, Animals Industry & Fisheries (MAAIF), Bukalasa Agricultural College (BAC) and Fisheries Training Institute (FTI). The complaint particularly stated that during COVID -19 lockdown, officials at MAAIF disbursed UGX 9 Bn to BAC and FTI for various activities yet the schools were closed and not operational.

Article 225 (1) (e) and Section 8 (e) of the Inspectorate of Government Act, 2002 empowers the Inspectorate of Government (IG) to investigate the conduct of any public officer which may be connected with or conducive to:-

- (i) the abuse of his or her office or authority;
- (ii) the neglect of his or her official duties;
- (iii) economic malpractices by the officer.

The IG investigated the above allegations and established that during the F/Y 2020/2021, MAAIF transferred funds totalling Ugx **10,214,168,464** to FTI and BAC at different times. Out of the **Ugx 10,214,168,464** disbursed to the two institutions, **Ugx. 8,722,130,799** was mismanaged and misappropriated as it was spent on non-existent activities at the schools.

However, before any action inclusive of prosecution could be taken, the culpable persons by their letter of 1<sup>st</sup> March, 2022 to IG requested to refund the amount in issue.

Article 230 (2) of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda and S.14 (6) of the Inspectorate of Government Act, 2002 provide that;

**“The Inspector General of Government may, during the course of his or her duties or as a consequence of his or her finding, make such orders and give such directions as are necessary and appropriate in the circumstance”**

Given the above enabling provisions of the law and aware of the various strategies of fighting corruption which may be either short, medium and long term, this office invited the parties for a meeting on the way forward on their request.

The suspects undertook to refund the sum of **Ugx. 8,722,130,799** on **Inspectorate of Government Asset Recovery Account Number 003030088000007** held at Bank of Uganda using **EFT**. The terms of the agreement that were reduced in writing and signed by the parties include among others the following;

1. Payment of all the money misappropriated within 28 months from the date of signing the agreement.
2. Suspects to deposit securities with the IG till payment in full.
3. Each of them to make an initial deposit of 5% within 30 days of the agreement.
4. Recovery of the funds in issue does not waive the IG's power to recommend further administrative actions such as warning, dismissal, demotion or retirement in public interest against the culpable persons.

The IG however, reserves the powers and rights to pursue the matter criminally or administratively against any person that shall breach all or any of the terms of the agreement.

## **B. CORRUPTION AT UGANDA BUREAU OF STATISTICS (UBOS)**

The Inspectorate of Government also received another complaint from a whistleblower alleging that in the F/Y 2021/2022, staff of finance department at UBOS illicitly amassed wealth by taking advantage of the COVID 19 lock down.

It was specifically alleged that senior officials at UBOS made requisitions for fictitious activities to a tune of **Ugx. 1,000,000,000= (One billion shillings)**.

Investigations established that between July 2021 and March 2022 **Ugx. 1,010,731,900=** was requisitioned and paid to staff for field work activities during the COVID 19 lockdown.

It was also established that out of the total sum requisitioned for only **Ugx. 33,130,900=** was rightfully spent on planned for field activities. The balance of **Ugx. 977,601,000=** had no activities undertaken at all though reports and accountabilities which were later found to be fake and forged were submitted/filed.

The Inspectorate of Government invoked her powers under Article 230(2) of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda and Section 14 (6) of the Inspectorate of Government Act and ordered the culpable staff involved in the mismanagement of the above funds to refund the total amount of **Ugx. 977,601,000=** within **90 days**. Failure of which other options including prosecutions would be taken against them.



Letters ordering the culpable UBOS staff to refund the funds were dispatched and after **90 days** the Inspectorate of Government will take the next action regarding the matter.

### **Factors considered by the IG**

It should be noted that while agreeing to recovery of the stolen monies as a short term method, the Inspectorate of Government took the following factors into consideration:-

1. Time spent on prosecution of corruption cases tend to be long.
2. Recovery of the total amount involved is guaranteed as the culprits/suspects willingly comply.
3. Cost of prosecution is avoided and recovery is cheaper in the circumstances.
4. The outcome of this type of settlement is known or is easily predictable unlike prosecution where you are not certain whether the suspects will be convicted and ordered to refund the money or not
5. Recovery under out-of-court settlement is immediate and guaranteed.
6. The suspects are denied the opportunity to enjoy their stolen wealth/money.
7. Other administrative sanctions in accordance with the Public Service standing orders are imposed against the suspects in addition to recovery of the funds stolen.

One of the Strategies at IG is to motivate the public to be watchdogs for the public funds disbursed and encourage them to be whistleblowers. For the above two cases the whistle blowers will be paid 5% of the monies recovered in accordance with the whistleblowers Act. One of the whistleblowers is the Monitor Publications Ltd.