THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

INSPECTORATE OF GOVERNMENT

FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION AND ADMNISTRATIVE INJUSTICES IN PUBLIC OFFICES: ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE INSPECTORATE OF GOVERNMENT



HE. YK MUSEVENI SHAKES HANDS WITH THE IGG JUSTICE IRENE MULYAGONJA

BACKGROUND:

The Inspectorate of Government (IG) was first established in 1986 as a Unit in the Office of the President to help instill a culture of accountability, transparency, integrity and good governance. The mandate at that time was fourfold; Protection of Human Rights, Promotion of rule of law, Elimination of Corruption and abuse of office, and Prescribing regulatory and administrative reforms to the Legislature. The Inspectorate was later established under Statute No.2 of 1988 to achieve Point Number 7 of the NRM 10-Point Programme which aims at eliminating corruption and misuse of power.

In 1995, the Inspectorate of Government became a constitutional body deriving its functions and powers under Chapter 13 of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda. In addition, Chapter 14 of the Constitution also gave the Inspectorate of Government powers to enforce the implementation of the Leadership Code of Conduct.

Mandate: "to eliminate corruption, promote and foster the rule of law and principles of natural justice in public offices and enforce the Leadership Code of Conduct"

Mission: To promote good governance through enhancing accountability and transparency and enforcement of the rule of law and administrative justice in public office
Vision: Good governance, with an ethical and corruption free society.

The functions of the Inspectorate of Government are spelt out under Article 225 of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda.

Special Powers: In furtherance of the above-mentioned Mandate and the functions, the Inspectorate of Government is granted special powers under Article 230 of the constitution which are amplified under section 14 of the IG Act 2002.

Major Achievements of IG since inception:

(a) The transition from being a department in the Office of the President in 1986 to becoming an independent and constitutional body under the 1995 constitution of the Republic of Uganda.

(b) Enhancement of the IG mandate through the enactment of the IG Act 2002 and the Leadership code Act, 2002 has had a great contribution in improving the IG performance of its functions.

(c) Establishment of 16 regional offices to make its services more accessible to the public. This has helped in encouraging the public to report cases of corruption as well as reducing congestion and backlog of cases at the head quarters.

(d) The IG continues to solicit and enlist public support in the fight against corruption through collaborating with other stakeholders who include; the development partners e.g. Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA), Department for International Development (DFID), African Development Bank (ADB), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Irish aid, the Netherlands and Anti- Corruption Threshold - United states Agency for International Development (ACT-USAID), other government institutions mandated to fight corruption and the youth in institutions of learning under the Integrity Ambassadors umbrella, to mention but few.

(e) Investigations and inspections that result into; arrests, prosecutions, reprimands and recoveries of public resources. The Inspectorate of Government handles more than 2000 complaints annually. This has promoted checks on the excesses of public officials and the state apparatus against citizens.

(f) Enforcement of the Leadership Code of Conduct where every two years, an average of 17, 500 leaders of various categories declare their incomes, assets and liabilities.

(g) Participation in legislation such as the Whistle Blowers' Protection Act, the Anti-Corruption Act, 2009 and other laws, through contributing ideas during the legislative process.

(h) International engagements where; the IG is the focal institution for mutual legal assistance under the United Nations Convention against Corruption, a founder member of the International Anti-Corruption Academy, an active member of the African Ombudsman and Mediators Association, member of International Association of Anti-Corruption Authorities, member of International Association of Prosecutors and member of the East African Association of Anti-Corruption Authorities.

(i) Developed a, Data Tracking Mechanism tool, to track trends of corruption in Uganda with support from Economic Policy Research Centre and the World Bank. The tool uses existing data to scientifically monitor corruption trends in selected sectors. To-date, 2 annual reports have been published and the 3rd report is underway.

(j) Sensitization of masses through; workshops and seminars, film shows, Integrity clubs, television, radio, media and publications. The various National Integrity Surveys conducted showed that there is a steady increase in the knowledge of the public about the activities of Inspectorate of Government from 32% in 1998 to 72% in 2008.

FUTURE PLANS:

- To adopt strategic approaches that promote the IG investigative efficiency, economy and effectiveness; ensuring timely completion of cases, strengthening the mechanism of follow-up of implementation of IG recommendations through the improvement of case management system.
- To adopt strategic approaches that promote effective prosecution of cases for instance institutionalizing regular consultation with relevant agencies
- To develop and implement a comprehensive and effective public awareness strategy that would involve regular dissemination of knowledge, developing partnerships with stakeholders and sensitizing and encouraging complainants to exhaust other alternatives before resorting to IG
- Have efficient and effective Computer-based investigations and Case management through full operationalisation of the Case Management System (CMS).
- Build capacity of staff in tracing and recovery of assets or proceeds of corruption or ill gotten wealth. In addition, an enabling law to facilitate the recovery of assets is being drafted by a task force under the Directorate of Ethics and Integrity comprising of the Inspectorate of Government, Directorate of Public Prosecution and Police.
- Strengthen the existing Inspectorate of Government Regional Offices, to ensure that services are taken closer to the people as well as increase the Institutions presence at the local government level.

As the country celebrates 50 yrs of independence, we call upon all citizens of Uganda to fight against corruption.

We should uphold the principle of Zero Tolerance against corruption.

Happy Independence Anniversary