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He accused the government of failing

... legendary first Mugisu man.

The security delegation agreed on the security operations and imbalu proto-

or Mbale City, said the government should intervene and resolve the standoff.

BY ISMAIL BATEGEKA

Masindi loses Shs18m in pension overpayments

MASINDI. Masindi District has lost about Shs18 million in pension overpayments to three retired civil servants, raising fresh concerns about financial management and accountability in local governments.

This is contained in the latest report by Auditor General Edward Akol, which highlights irregularities in the payment of gratuity to pensioners in the district.

The report for the audit year ending December 2025 shows that errors in computation and processing led to excess payments, resulting in a direct financial loss to government.

According to the findings, the overpayments were identified after a detailed comparison between recomputed gratuity and the actual disbursements made through the government's Integrated Financial Management System (IFMS).

The review established that three pensioners received more than they were legally entitled to.

The estate of the late Ayesiga Stephen was paid Shs8.48 million instead of Shs5 million, resulting in an overpayment of Shs3.47 million.

In another case, the estate of the late Tuhairwe Geoffrey Samuel received Shs38.29 million against an entitlement of Shs25.79 million, leading to an excess of Shs12.49 million.

Similarly, the estate of the late Dranku Alex was paid Shs20.45 million instead of Shs18.13 million, creating an overpayment of Shs2.31 million. In total, the three beneficiaries were entitled to Shs48.9 million but were paid Shs67.2 million, resulting in an excess of Shs18.28 million.

The Auditor General noted that such payments are inconsistent with Article 254 (1) and (3) of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda, 1995, which provides that a public officer should receive pension and gratuity commensurate with rank, salary and length of service. The law also requires payments to

be fair, accurate and transparent.

"These irregularities lead to financial loss to the government and undermine public trust in the management of public resources," the report states.

The Auditor General recommended recovery of the excess funds and tasked the district's Accounting Officer with strengthening internal controls to prevent recurrence.

The Accounting Officer acknowledged the findings and agreed with the recommendations, assuring that steps would be taken to recover the funds



Recovering money.

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Necessary administrative steps are being taken to ensure that the money is recovered," Mr. Samuel Ruhweza Kaija, the Chief Administrative Officer

and improve pension processing systems.

The audit also revealed cases of underpayment, which could have serious implications for beneficiaries.

Two pensioners, Mr. Asiimwe Luka and Ms. Nyakahara Sarah, received less than their entitlement. They were due a combined gratuity of Shs45.56 million but were paid Shs33.58 million, resulting in a shortfall of Shs11.98 million.

The Auditor General noted that underpayment affects the livelihood of pensioners and their families, many of whom depend on these funds after retirement. Delays or shortfalls can lead to financial hardship, especially for elderly beneficiaries with limited income sources.

He recommended that all affected beneficiaries be paid in full within the next financial year, stressing the need for timely and accurate disbursement of pension benefits as required by law.

Article 254 further provides that pension payments must be prompt, regular and accessible to beneficiaries, yet the findings in Masindi District point to gaps in implementation.

The Chief Administrative Officer, Mr. Samuel Ruhweza Kaija, said the district had responded to the Auditor General's queries and initiated recovery measures. "We received the queries from the Auditor General, and we responded accordingly. Necessary administrative steps are being taken to ensure that the money is recovered," Mr. Kaija said.

He added that measures have been introduced to prevent similar incidents, including strengthened verification systems, improved record-keeping and closer supervision of officers handling pension payments.

"We are committed to accountability and proper management of public resources. Such errors are not intentional, but we are taking them seriously and correcting them," he said.