

Justification. The revelation comes against backdrop of reports of, among others, inflation of refugee numbers and siphoning of relief aid items.

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KAMPALA. Prime Minister Ruhakana Rugunda has revealed that government has agreed to a United Nations' proposal to institute a special audit into the millions of dollars funneled to humanitarian relief activities in Uganda.

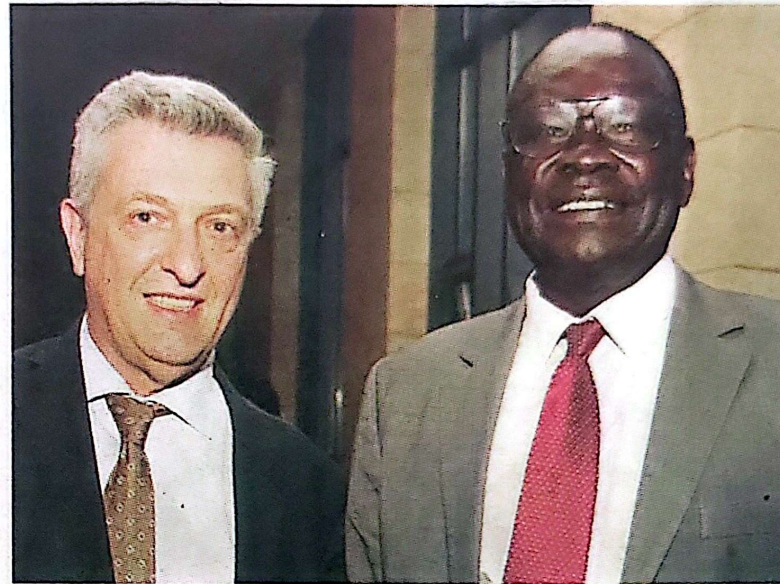
Dr Rugunda on Tuesday said the "question of accountability is crucial" not just to government but "to our friends and tax payers around the world who give all that they can to assist the refugees."

The revelation comes on the backdrop of reports of, among others, dubious awarding of sub-contracts by both humanitarian agencies and officials in the Department of Refugees under the Office of the Prime Minister, inflation of refugee numbers, siphoning of relief aid items, and that monies meant to assist the host communities in the refugee hosting districts were not reaching the ground.

Uganda, according to UNHCR, is home to 1.4 million refugees, majority of whom are from South Sudan, DR Congo and Rwanda.

The Prime Minister made

UN demands audit of refugee funds



Diplomacy. UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi poses with Minister for Refugees Hilary Onek in Kampala on Tuesday. PHOTO BY STEPHEN WANDERA

the revelation at the press conference he addressed with UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi, who was in Kampala for a fund raiser for South Sudanese refugees.

"We need a quick investigation to ensure that the

truth is established and if any money, even one single coin is missing, it will be brought back," Dr Rugunda said.

Mr Grandi, who was in Uganda last June for the Refugee Solidarity Summit, applauded the government for

BACKGROUND

Milestone. The audit will be the first of its kind in a country hailed globally as one of the best places to be for refugees.

The country has over the years received millions of dollars to assist with the routine refugee influx from its crises laden neighbours. Refugee operations are manned by UN agencies and government.

acquiescing to the audit.

"We work in a very risky environment and it is for that matter that we need to strengthen our systems so we can show our funders how committed and accountable we are," he said.

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