

National News

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BY BUSEIN SAMILU

The Head of Public Service and Secretary to Cabinet, Ms Lucy Nakyobe, has unveiled a raft of reforms aimed at tackling corruption in the public service, signalling a shift towards stricter accountability and performance-based management across government institutions.

Speaking during the ongoing retreat for NRM MPs-elect at the National Leadership Institute in Kyankwanzi District, Ms Nakyobe outlined key measures that include the regular transfer of permanent secretaries and other senior public officials, dismissal of non-performing staff, and annual renewal of contracts based on achievement of set targets.

The reforms, which have been widely welcomed by both government officials and anti-corruption advocates, are intended to address long-standing gaps in public sector accountability and service delivery.

Ms Nakyobe also revealed that her office will change the way performance is assessed in districts, moving away from a focus on budget utilisation to a more results-oriented approach that measures actual implementation of projects and services.

According to sources attending the retreat, Ms Nakyobe assured President Museveni that the proposed reforms are practical interventions aimed at eliminating corruption.

"The President said his government was very firm in the fight against corruption and institutions would be empowered to deal with the vice," a source quoted her as saying.

The proposals come amid growing concern over the scale of corruption

Govt sets new performance measures for civil servants



Security Minister Maj Gen (rtd) Jim Muhwezi (left), Health Minister Dr Jane Ruth Aceng (right) and other MPs during the NRM retreat in Kyankwanzi District yesterday. PHOTO/COURTESY OF NRM

in Uganda. Data from the Inspectorate of Government (IG) indicates that the country loses approximately Shs9.1 trillion annually to corruption.

President Museveni, while opening the retreat last week, reiterated his administration's commitment to fighting corruption, warning newly elected legislators against engaging in the vice.

The Kyankwanzi retreat has brought together more than 400 legislators, the majority from the ruling NRM party, alongside a number of Independent and Opposition MPs-elect.

The nine-day engagement is being held under the theme of aligning leaders to protect gains and accelerate Uganda's transition to a higher middle-income economy.

Ms Nakyobe's proposals have drawn support from institutions involved in the anti-corruption fight, including the Inspectorate of Government and civil society organisations.

Fighting corruption

Ms Ali Munira, the spokesperson of the Inspectorate of Government, said the reforms would strengthen ongoing efforts to combat corruption, noting that the vice requires a multi-pronged approach.

"We believe these strategies will help in the fight against corruption. As the Inspectorate, we have also stepped up efforts, including publishing names of individuals who return stolen funds, which is helping to deter others," she

said.

Civil society actors also welcomed the reforms, particularly the emphasis on performance-based accountability.

Mr Marlon Agaba, the executive director of the Anti-Corruption Coalition Uganda (ACCU), said the proposals reflect long-standing recommendations by anti-corruption advocates.

"When you have an accounting officer who is not performing, there is no reason to keep them. They should be replaced with those who can deliver results," he said.

He added that annual contract renewals would help address complacency among public servants who often rely on long-term job security without delivering measurable outcomes.

KEY REFORMS

- Regular transfer of permanent secretaries and senior staff.
- Dismissal of non-performing public servants.
- Annual renewal of contracts based on performance.
- Shift from budget-based assessment to results-based evaluation.

"There has been a persistent disconnect between the funds allocated to districts and the actual services delivered.

Measuring performance based on output rather than expenditure is both timely and necessary," Mr Agaba said.

Both the Inspectorate and ACCU expressed optimism that, if implemented effectively, the reforms could significantly reduce corruption, which has for years undermined public service delivery and slowed development.

The renewed focus on accountability echoes previous commitments by President Museveni, who has consistently identified corruption as one of the main obstacles to Uganda's progress.

Meanwhile, the President is expected to conclude the Kyankwanzi retreat with further engagements, including discussions on regional integration and institutional strengthening.

Earlier in the day, Mr Museveni also laid a foundation stone for the Salim Saleh School of Research and Walter Rodney Block at the National Leadership Institute (NALI), praising the initiative as a step towards strengthening leadership training and ideological entation.