

The IGG says the declaration of income, assets and liabilities is a mandatory requirement under the Leadership Code Act.

BY HANIFAH NANYANZI

**T**he Inspector General of Government (IGG), Justice Aisha Naluzze Batala, has issued a stern warning to public officers and political leaders across the country to declare their wealth by March 31 or face prosecution, dismissal and other sanctions provided for under the law.

Speaking through the Deputy Ombudsman spokesperson, Mr Farooq Kayondo, the IGG said the declaration of income, assets and liabilities is a mandatory requirement under the Leadership Code Act.

"All leaders are reminded to declare their income, assets and liabilities as required under the Leadership Code Act, Cap 33. If you do not declare or you under-declare your assets, we shall refer you to the Leadership Code Tribunal for appropriate action," the IGG said.

The warning was delivered during Justice Batala's familiarisation tour of the Greater Masaka sub-region last week, where she met local leaders and inspected a number of government projects.

She urged leaders in Masaka to take a leading role in the fight against corruption to ensure citizens receive quality services.

"The mindset of our people has to change. It is a duty for everyone to get involved in the fight against corruption," she said.

"The Leadership Code is intended to deter corruption in public administration by promoting adherence to the rule of law, preventing abuse of office and safeguarding the public good and principles of good governance," she added.

During an inspection at Masaka Regional Referral Hospital, the IG Director of Ombudsman Mr Savio Kakooza cau-

# IGG issues deadline on assets declaration



IGG Aisha Naluzze Batala (2nd right) interacts with staff at Masaka Regional Referral Hospital during a tour of the facility last week. PHOTO/HANIFAH NANYANZI

tioned public officials serving on commissions and those managing public land against engaging in corrupt practices.

"We are working closely with complainants and quietly investigating all reported cases of corruption. We are seriously monitoring the space and will not hesitate to make arrests where necessary," Mr Kakooza said.

The outgoing Masaka District chairperson, Mr Andrew Batemyetto, told the IGG that teamwork among district leaders had strengthened the fight against graft in the area. However, he appealed for closer engagement with security agencies.

"We request Madam IGG to engage security officers in Masaka to improve service delivery. Some forget that they are here to serve the community," he said.

The Masaka Regional Referral Hospital Director, Dr James Elima, raised concerns over challenges faced by pathologists at the facility. He said some specialists were considering halting postmortem examinations due to

what he described as hostile cross-examination by lawyers in court.

"These are professionals who carry out their duties diligently, but when they appear in court, they are subjected to tough questioning that sometimes goes beyond their line of duty. It discourages them," Dr Elima said.

Under the Leadership Code Act, a political leader or public officer who fails, without justifiable cause, to submit a declaration of income, assets and liabilities commits a breach and is liable to prosecution and sanctions, including dismissal. A leader who fails to provide clarification requested by the IGG within 30 days of receiving notice also commits a breach and may face a warning, dismissal or vacation of office.

Declarations are submitted through the Inspectorate of Government's On-

## BACKGROUND

Records from the Leadership Code Tribunal indicate that between January 2022 and December 2024, at least 105 officers were prosecuted and fined for failure to declare or under-declaring their wealth. The defaulters included commissioners in various ministries, heads of departments and accountants.