Civil servants in Bunyoro urged to resist corruption

By Peter Abaanabasazi

Civil servants in different local governments within Bunyoro sub-region have been challenged to resist corruption and, instead focus on delivering inclusive services to the local community.

Maj. Martha Asiimwe, the head of the Resident District Commissioners (RDC) Secretariat in the Office of the President, said: "That the biggest challenge currently affecting service delivery in the country is corruption."

Asiimwe, who is currently traversing Bunyoro to assess the progress of government programmes and strengthen co-ordination among political, technical and security actors at the district level, held several engagements with leaders in Hoima city and Kikuube district last week.

During the engagements, Asiimwe said that corruption among local government officials, especially the selling of government jobs, needs to be tackled aggressively.

She noted that the poor Ugandan parents are struggling to educate their children, but due to corrupt officials, they are forced to sell their land to get jobs for their children.

"The evil of selling government jobs is rampant in the country. Members of the district service commission have turned into brokers of government jobs," she observed and demanded that this vice be put to an end. She urged leaders to use their offices to fight corruption.

"As leaders, heads of department, civil servants, your offices are the first line of defence against corruption. The misuse of funds under Emyooga, Parish Development Model, universal primary education and universal secondary education must not be tolerated. Contractors who deliver shoddy work, absentee health workers, theft of medicines, and illegal land evictions are all signs of failure in supervision. Let us renew our vigilance and refocus on service delivery," Asiimwe asked the leaders.

Asiimwe called on leaders to exhibit a high level of patriotism, transparency and accountability, noting that these factors are the hallmark of good leadership.

She also underscored the need for leaders to focus on job creation and increasing household incomes to ensure that all Ugandans benefit from the peace and stability the country has achieved.

Hoima city town clerk Edward Lwanga commended the Government for the support always given to the city, but said they were facing several challenges in ensuring service delivery.

He noted that the city service commission recently recruited teachers from different schools after receiving permission from the Ministry of Public Service, but these teachers have not been put on the payroll.

"As a result, the teachers have spent over six months without pay and this challenge is affecting the education sector in the city," Lwanga said, adding that the city is also facing challenges of inadequate funding and staff, which affect service delivery.

Hoima city deputy mayor Sylvia Nalumaga said the city also lacks road equipment to work on the maintenance of the over 600km of roads.

The city is facing low revenue collection. Our local revenue budget is sh2b and sometimes we do not realise it," Nalumaga pointed out. She said the city also lacks a hospital and called upon the central government to address the matter to improve health service delivery.

Hoima resident city commissioner Badiru Mugabi said the city has benefited from income-generating government programmes, such as the Parish Development Model and Emyooga, citing 16 parishes that have cumulatively received sh5.6b disbursed to 4,905 beneficiary households.

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