

National News

IGG gives 202 gov't officials 14 days to repay stolen cash

The ombudsman says the outstanding balances arise from funds that the officials allegedly used for personal benefit at the expense of public services, thereby causing financial loss to the government.

BY ANTHONY WESAKA

The Inspector General of Government (IGG) has given 14 days to 202 government officials to pay back money totalling Sh2.3b they allegedly misappropriated from the State.

In a directive seen by this publication, IGG Aisha Naluzze Batala asked the affected officials to report to the watchdog and reconcile their outstanding balances by March 31 or face prosecution.

The ombudsman said the outstanding balances arise from funds that the officials allegedly used for personal benefit at the expense of public services, thereby causing financial loss to the government. "The Inspectorate of Government reminds all public officers who have defaulted on the payment of funds owed to the government to do so to avoid prosecution," the IGG said in the directive.

The directive added: "All listed officers are required to come to the IG on or before March 31, 2020, and reconcile their outstanding balances; failure of which the IG may proceed with further enforcement measures, including prosecution."

Ms Naluzze Batala said the notice is the final opportunity being extended to the affected officials to comply with the law and be heard in line with the principles of natural justice.

"In view of their continued non-compliance, charges relating to disobedience of lawful orders and abuse of office will be preferred against those who remain adamant and deliberately defiant of the statutory IG directives," the IGG warned.

Some of the officials listed include Mr Pius Wakabi Kasajja, a former permanent secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture, who reportedly has an outstanding balance of about Sh205 million.

Others are Ms Tine Mone, an administrator at Soroti University; Mr James Okello, the academic registrar at the same institution; and Mr Francis Harimwumugasho, a lawyer who reportedly owes about Sh48 million.

The majority of the affected officials are from various local governments.

Ms Munira Ali, the spokesperson of the Inspectorate of Government, last evening explained that the institution had previously focused on recovering stolen government funds from suspects who agreed to refund the money instead of prosecuting them. "Some of the suspects, on agreeing to pay back the stolen funds, would not complete the payment. That is why we are now going after them," Ms Ali said.

Officers with overdue recovery balance as at February 2020

AFFECTED PERSONS	OUTSTANDING BALANCES
Pius Wakabi Kasajja, former PS MAAIF	205,000,000
Lewis Paul Ayegga, MEMO	104,716,600
Joel Muriel, former CAO, Kasongolo & Kitgum	155,000,000
Fisher Martin, MD, M's Mac Bus. World Ltd	98,000,000
Steven Turyamureeba, MAAIF	95,827,000
Richard Lukumoli, Amuru DLG	69,028,000
Frederick Musika, UWA Masindi	64,395,270
Byron Twesigye	61,638,000
Dr Martin Yeffa, Kyegongwa hosp	55,490,000
Spero Byekunda, MEMO	53,159,400
Francis Harimwumugasho, Ahamek Advocates	49,200,000
Alfred Omon, formerly s/nr lecturer	42,883,821
Daniel Bazira, H/T Rupa Seed SS, Moroto	40,500,000
Vincent Mukasa, proc. officer, UTC, Kuchwamba	40,332,360
Daniel Gwatta, animal husbandry officer, Luuka	37,147,000
Jane Mutagaki Kagote Mpanza, Fort Portal	32,874,524
Francis Nyamugwa, town clerk, Masindi MC	32,367,012
Francis Bainemama, ex-Kisoro Dist. planner	28,504,500
Francis Ongom, Ag. Kasongolo District eng	28,076,000
Frederick Kagasa, asst. town clerk, Kigumba TC	26,086,000
Maurice Wakame, Ag. district eng, Bulisa	23,490,000
Jonathan Mukasa, ex-Kyankende S/C chief	22,435,500
Kityo Mugagga, PHRO Masaka DLG	22,329,000
Stella Nakayima, mid-wife, Bukasa HC IV	21,426,970
CAO Abim District	20,970,318
Vincent Tumwesigye, Masindi s/nr asst. eng	20,347,200
Benjamin Arinaitwe, H/T Rwenzori East S/S	19,511,000
Robert Basime, principal fisheries officer	19,178,000
David Kasasa, ex-trustee of PTA Numbura P/S	19,000,000
Abel Mutanda, ex-trustee of PTA Numbura P/S	19,000,000
Ochaya Frederick Ajusi, Ag. Kotido district eng	18,940,000
Charles Okello, accountant, Soroti University	18,413,000
Acaya Phillip, officer-in-charge of mechanical	17,525,180
Atuhire Innocent, H/T Kisuba Seed Sec. Sch.	17,422,000
Saidi Meny, teacher, Namayundu P/S Bugiri	15,220,000
Gilson Kambon, principal township officer	14,750,400
Badru Drako, Akuru Parish chief	14,649,283
Samuel Lubaga, assistant agro officer	11,454,000
Cassir Ochiti Komakech, town agent	11,409,826
Keith Mwesigye, teacher, Nyeigabiro P/S	11,190,101
Immaculate Atimango, ex-planner, Adjumani	11,160,000
Joshua Kandole, principal town agent, Kasasa	10,487,000
Jacob Omara, Laguti S/C chief	10,028,000
Unice Kobusingye, Hoima District	10,000,000
Siraja Bedjo, Bisenyi Busunuka, Hoima	10,000,000
Jesse M'nyaya, s/nr asst. ex-Mulamuti TC	10,000,000
Musa Munungu Mureke, H/T Masaka SS	9,867,000
Ali Mpanzo, asst. educ. officer, Kahinja SS	9,836,307
Luciano Odongo, educ. asst., Otara P/S	9,714,838
Edmonson Achek, asst. Lira DHO	9,714,838
David Emoli, agro officer, Otubol S/C	9,642,000
Gilbert Tumusiime, ex-sub-educ. Bulisa	9,300,000
Tiko Kasika, s/nr asst. asst. Yumbe	8,820,000
Charles Nasur, transferred to Karenga	8,721,500
Isaac Bulamira, s/nr clerk admin., KCCA	8,400,000
Bernard Wabulizi, princ. township officer	8,250,000
Kenneth Acola, ex-snr entomologist asst., Kalro	8,193,867
Joshua Lokoe, asst. eng. officer, Nakapiripiti	8,126,000
Rebecca Lubandi, asst. proc. officer, MEMD	8,050,000
Habib Yassin, Yumbe T/C	7,919,000
Eria Lutaya, Nkumba Day and Boarding P/S	7,800,000
Stephen Ngobi, ex-H/T Kalro DLG	7,680,450
Pascal Baluku, Katwe-Kabatoro T/C treasurer	7,599,250
Immaculate Atimango, urban physical planner	7,450,000
Edgar Bakamunga, asst. eng. officer	7,423,000
Richard Onama, roads inspector, Adjumani	7,284,800
David Watulo, Ass. com. HRO, MOPS	7,250,000
Margaret Kawunguzi, ex-snr educ. asst., Kalro	7,239,984
Andrew Besigye, Nyanuntutu S/C Chief	7,100,000
Doreen Kanyonyuzi, UTC s/nr asst. accountant	7,007,800
Edward Okello, Kasenyi-Lyato, Hoima	7,000,000
Mark Odong, s/nr asst. accountant, Nwoya	6,989,250
Godfrey Nangalama, Nabumali High Sch.	6,911,400
Francis Tibamanywa, principal Kabale Tech. Inst	6,723,000
Julius Wambete, human resource officer	6,676,857
Gasper Okidi, Kotido MC eng	6,551,350
Ronald M'ala, s/nr urban officer MOLA	6,544,233
Dorah Nuwamanya, Kabale RRR	6,388,000
Nelson Baluku, MAF Officer, OPM	6,350,800
Florence Naligaga, ex-educ. asst., Kalro	6,342,442
Judith Ayamo, eng. asst., Moroto	5,973,000
Susan Kaudha, educ. asst., Namutumba	5,901,503
Steven Mwangi, lab technician, Bukasa HC IV	5,857,426
Abdul Nury, Golden Castle Hotel, Hoima	5,800,000
Jimmy Odyeghi, police officer, Bulisa PS	5,800,000
Joshua Byomukama, s/nr asst. sec. Bundibugyo	5,800,000
Emmy Erimundi, Ag. CFO, Zombo	5,466,000
Emmanuel Besigye, H/T Ngora SS	5,385,000
Esau Murogo, town clerk Hima T/C	5,341,250
Mathias Kiwaga, ex-tech. teacher Kalro	5,186,251
Stephen Gidagali, senior AA, Bulambuli	5,000,000
Godfrey Tebesigwa, Kalungu	5,000,000
John Geria, accounts asst., Ofaka S/C	5,000,000
Paul Kilama, s/nr CDO, Lamwo	4,902,333
Moses Bahemuka Kizembo	4,891,000
Ismael Kitimbwa Bwambala, CDO Kasasa	4,890,000
Dominic Wanzira, probation officer, Mbale	4,850,000
Richard Obama, road overseer, Padra	4,750,000
Abel Tibuzza, former educ. asst., Kalro	4,663,080
Michael Luvania, former educ. asst., Kalro	4,649,745
John Luchaga, s/nr finance officer, Amudat	4,531,702
Josephine Dlungu, ex-trustee Numbura P/S	4,500,000
Tammy Odik, s/nr asst. Minakuli S/C	4,400,000
Kotol Ogasang, s/nr CDO, Nakapiripiti	4,375,000
Florence Namugga, nurse, Bukasa HC IV	4,296,428
Charles Mudiuku, SAS Bukhulu S/C	4,282,500
Catherine Mbamba, principal asst. sec.	4,200,000
Richard Madieta, Nabulatu DLG	4,115,000
Natania Nakuru, pool stenographer	4,102,000
Tina Mone, administrator, Soroti University	4,080,000
James Okello, acad. reg. Soroti University	4,050,000
Frederick Ajusi, Ag. district eng, Kotido	4,000,000
Walter Enio, youth councillor, Lira City	3,940,000
Godfrey Mwaka, accountant, Nwoya	3,823,488
Jonathan Kap, SHRO, Kotido DLG	3,699,000
Geoffrey Ocia, s/nr asst. Nwoya	3,628,000
John Bosco Luchaga, s/nr finance officer	3,600,000
Tom Samson Kitebu, H/T Namuli SSS	3,545,256
John Mudoogo, youth councillor	3,500,000
Lawrence Mayambala, s/nr clerk, KCCA council	3,475,000
Fidel Andama Obiya, H/T Rwenzori P/S	3,391,450
Florence Nantaza, ex-nursing officer, Kalro	3,064,899
Charles Onyango, Moroto DLG	3,005,000
Godfrey Kinyera, agro officer, Nwoya	2,979,000
Adolf Wednesday, Kyegongo	2,821,522
John Bosco Kuloba, SAS, Manafaa	2,774,329
Gabriel Achelol, Ag. med superintendent	2,685,000
Fred Ojamba, SAS Nanyingi	2,642,800
Tobias Bwonyo, ex-sub-acc. Awei S/C	2,640,000
George Kintu, H/T Mutarere SS Bugiri	2,630,580
Samuel Mugisa, s/nr asst. asst., Bundibugyo	2,603,000
Charles Okidi, (now CDO), Odek S/C, Omoro	2,600,000
Noding Ngodi, human resource officer, Kotido	2,500,000
Charles Bithum, ex-snr asst. Asua MC	2,470,000
Juliet Atou, town clerk, Ayali TC	2,271,337
Abel Barasa, Inspector of Schools, Busia MC	2,250,000
Almos Nuwagaba, educ. asst., Rwambogo P/S	2,245,000
James Odongo, Auditor, Soroti University	2,205,000
Charles Mwesige, district planner, Bundibugyo	2,170,000
Juko Winyi, Masaka DLG	2,100,000
John Twimomugisha, H/T Kentere P/S	2,080,000
Tom Mayeko, SAS Bulambuli DLG	2,000,000
Gasper Okidi, municipal eng., Kotido MC	2,000,000
Elizabeth Kadondo, teacher, Minani P/S	1,980,429
Christopher Lotuk, princ. asst. town clerk	1,955,500
Paul Mubiru Katya, asst. officer, MoES	1,900,000
Wilson Byekwaso, human resource officer	1,898,536
Florence Akongo, senior treasurer, Kotido MC	1,855,500
Alfred Okuga, Adjumani District	1,800,000
Julius Abigaba, Ikoba Boys P/S Mgt committee	1,791,450
Jessica Namaganda H/T Kibayunja SSS	1,770,000
Bithum Charles, Asua City	1,766,800
Grace Oyella Aplo, now at Lamogi Palenga P/S	1,694,186
Samuel Bosco Wobya, s/nr asst. asst., Bududa	1,575,143
Emmanuel Bululu, human resource officer	1,562,988
Joseph Esiru, s/nr hosp. admin., Kaberamaido	1,550,000
Emmanuel Okallo, ex-tax officer, Kaberamaido	1,378,455
Jonathan Angulo, staff supervisor, Moyo DLG	1,335,000
Christopher Okengere SAS, Kisoko, Tororo	1,295,000
Walter Oyine, eng. officer, Severe DLG	1,260,000
Justus Alileya, Mulambo II Primary School	1,242,500
Eria Majumba, former CAO Katuku DLG	1,185,000
Romuald Otyang, district internal auditor	1,167,069
Humphreys Nabiro, Busia DLG	1,150,000
John Kirunda, former Asst. Kalro DLG	1,069,160



Directive.

All listed officers are required to come to the IG on or before March 31, 2020, and reconcile their outstanding balances; failure of which the IG may proceed with further enforcement measures, including prosecution.

- Aisha Naluzze Batala, the IGG

ing allowed to escape criminal liability. In April 2017, former Chief Justice Justice Irene Mulyagonja, for failing to prosecute magistrates caught engaging in corruption. Justice Katureebe, who at the time was addressing lawyers during the annual law conference at the Imperial Resort Beach Hotel in Entebbe, said two cases where magistrates who had been arrested while receiving bribes were allowed to resign instead of being prosecuted.

In one incident, he said a magistrate was arrested after demanding a Sh5m bribe from peasants in a land dispute, threatening to rule in favour of a wealthy opponent who was offering a higher bribe.

Although the magistrate was caught red-handed after the complaints were raised Sh1.5m and reported the matter to the IGG, Justice Katureebe said the suspect was later pardoned and allowed to retire with full benefits after admitting wrongdoing.

He also cited another corruption incident in West Nile where the IGG arrested a magistrate who had asked for a Sh1m bribe in a traffic case to grant bail to the suspect in the alleged offence.

Justice Katureebe narrated that at the arrest, the IGG came out with a zarre report saying it would not be logical to spend millions of shillings prosecuting the magistrate, yet the evidence they had against him could only prove a corruption case of a Sh250,000 fine.

"I don't mind, Madam IGG, whether it's Sh250,000. Theft is theft. Whether someone has taken Sh1b or Sh5m or even Sh50,000, which does not rightfully belong to him, that is theft. You don't steal money or get accused of misconduct and get away with it like that, just because you stole little. That will be difficult for us to establish how much I must steal to warrant a prosecution," Justice Katureebe said as the lawyers cheered him in unison.

But Justice Mulyagonja, in an interview with this publication, defended her strategy, arguing that prosecution of corruption cases can be costly and time-consuming.

"My priorities are different from those of the Chief Justice. As head of prosecution, my priority is cleaning up the Judiciary. I can do that in many ways, including prosecution or asking a judicial officer to resign," she said.

Uganda loses approximately Sh5 to trillion (equivalent to over 12.6% to corruption schemes every financial year, according to figures released by the IGG and confirmed by various anti-corruption agencies. This massive loss represents roughly 44 percent of the country's domestic revenue.

See complete list on <https://www.monitor.co.ug>

She added that the anti-corruption body's current approach under the new IGG is to prosecute corruption suspects

who fail to comply with recovery directives. The recovery first approach previously adopted by the Inspectorate has,

in the past, attracted criticism from judicial officers and anti-corruption advocates who argued that suspects were be-