

The commission of inquiry into land matters which was put in place

win a case. This forced me to compel fellow citizens to surrender their interests to SPA Financial Services to

price of 500,000 per acre to surrender their interests in the land where there had stayed for more than four

sentenced.

Flanked by Nakaseke County Council MP, Mr Paul Lutamaguzi Semakula,

issues which did not form part of the complaint.

# Badly dressed workers to miss promotion – govt

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**KAMPALA.** Permanent secretaries and Chief Administrative Officers (CAO) have started enforcing a strict dress code for all public servants and warned that errant workers risk missing out on promotions.

On Tuesday, ministry of Public Service directed all permanent secretaries and chief administrative officers to enforce “decency” at workplaces after reportedly receiving public outcry on some public servants’ offending dress code.

Yesterday, Mr Mathias Ndifuna, the Kasese District CAO, said a strict dress code will now be “followed to distinguish goat keepers from public servants” in the district.

“We will write caution letters to errant officers. You know a caution in Public Service can deny you a promotion,” Mr Ndifuna told *Daily Monitor* on a matter that has divided opinions

between moralists and human rights activists. The directive has also been embraced by Ms Adah Muwanga, the ministry’s director for human resource who said supervisors have the power to discipline their subordinates. She however said they will be willing to hear the side of the affected persons.

“Indecency is not grave to cause sacking but you can be cautioned by your supervisor. Public servants are good people and I am hopeful they will comply with the directive,” Ms Muwanga said, adding, “Just as we listened to those who complained on indecency, we will also listen to them [affected officers].”

The Education Service Commission permanent secretary, Dr Asuman Lukwago, backed the new directive saying it is “just a reminder” for the new recruits and there should not be any hullabaloo on the matter.

Gender permanent secretary Pius Bigirimana advised those with contrary views to the directive to give up

## BANNED/APPROVED DRESS CODE

**Females.** Officers should avoid wearing sleeveless, transparent blouses and dresses at the work place.

To ensure that clothing covers up cleavage, navels, knees and back.

Not allowed to appear for duty in open flat shoes except on doctors’ recommendation /medical grounds

Not allowed to wear bright coloured hair in form of natural hair, braids and hair extensions.

To desist from wearing tight fitting dresses and shirts.

the challenge since government works on directives. “We follow directives. Since public service has instructed us, we will enforce the rules. You do not need to put askaris around but if they are coming to office, they will have to comply,” he said.

**Males.** Male officers are required to dress in neat trousers, long sleeved shirts, jacket and a tie.

Officers shall not be allowed to put on open shoes.

Officers should dress in dark colours like dark green or brown, navy blue, grey or black suits.

Hair should be well-groomed and generally kept short

Tight fitting trousers will not be permitted. Only black and brown shoes should be worn to the office premises

Mr Kagole Kivumbi, the Judiciary permanent secretary, said: “decency is important” and I appeal to public servants to comply without any contest. “When you are given a job in public service, you are given a dress code. We will enforce the directive because de-

decency at workplace is important,” Mr Kivumbi said. In addition, Mr Ismail Ochege, the Arua District CAO, said the new directive will help public servants to “keep their dignity.”

“I have already brought this directive to the attention of technocrats in the district,” Mr Ochege said.

However, Mr Wilson Usher Owere, the chairman of National Organisation of Trade Unions (NOTU), castigated Public Service top honchos for tackling “small things” instead of “improving the welfare of the workers.”

“Dress code is not an urgent matter. We want Public Service to improve the welfare of workers that will improve productivity. This is the most pressing issue now,” Mr Owere said.

Ms Sylvia Namukasa, from the Legal Aid Service Provider’s Network, said such a decision is okay since decency has been enforced in other institutions, including banks. “If Public Service thought that their image is being put into disrepute, it is okay to enforce decency. As a lawyer, I cannot go to court with shouting colours or when I am not decent. The judge will say ‘I cannot see you,’” Ms Namukasa said.