

IGG gets Kilembe Mines bribery file

Issue. The implicated officials allegedly shared the money in varying proportions to influence the contract for redeveloping Kilembe Mines.

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KAMPALA. The Inspector General of Government has confirmed receiving the notice to investigate claims that five senior government officials, including Cabinet members, shared a Shs25 billion bribe to influence the controversial Kilembe Mines deal in favour of one company.

Justice Irene Mulyagonja said her office had received the bribery claims and added that she would assess their credibility and take appropriate action.

"What I know is that there are some allegations of corruption; we don't start investigations (immediately upon receipt of claims). We are going to assess, then we commence investigations," she told *Daily Monitor* by telephone.

Justice Mulyagonja further stated that her office does not know the particulars of the bribes, especially how much the implicated officials received.

Shs25b

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The IGG, who had been tasked to investigate an earlier claim of a \$1m bribe to a former minister about the Kilembe Mines venture, received an additional task to investigate the five new implicated government officials on the same claims and same venture. Parliament on Wednesday had a lengthy debate on the bribery



To be redeveloped. A journalist takes photos at Kilembe Mines in Kasese District recently. The IGG has confirmed receiving a notice to investigate senior government officials named in sharing a bribe to approve the controversial mines deal. PHOTO BY FELIX BASIMBE

claims about the Kilembe Mines copper mining project, but the House was informed by State minister for Privatisation Evelyn Anite that the matter had already been forwarded to the IGG for investigation and possible prosecution.

However, Ms Anite did not say whether the IGG was only investigat-

ing the earlier claim of \$1m bribe to a former minister or had also added the latest claims of the \$7.1m to the five government officials.

"I have asked the IGG to investigate the allegations of bribery in the award of Kilembe concession to the Chinese," Ms Anite told *Daily Monitor* last evening.

"I have received information that in giving out the contract to Tibet Hima, some officials I cannot name now because such information can jeopardise IGG investigations, picked money from the investor.

"Those who took bribes know themselves but they should be reminded that this is *Kisumu* *Ulu*

Mchezo (no-nonsense era). We are cleaning up and no stone will be left unturned until we get to the bottom of these allegations. Those who took bribes will be exposed. We have established a hotline [0800100770] for people to give us information," she said. She added that the process