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KAMPALA. The Inspectorate of Government (IGG) has halted the inauguration of the new National Drug Authority (NDA) Board following allegations of irregularities in the appointment process and claims of undue interference by the Board in the institution's daily management.

In a March 2 letter to the NDA Secretary, with a copy to the Minister of Health, Ms Anne Twinomugisha Muhairwe, the Deputy IGG, directed that plans to legitimise the new Board through the swearing-in ceremony should be halted.

"The Inspectorate of Government received complaints concerning the irregular appointment of Dr Medard

Why IGG halted inauguration of the new NDA Board

Bitekyerezo and Dr Muhammad Mbabali to the 9th National Drug Authority Board in breach of established processes and procedures," the letter reads.

Ms Twinomugisha said in the letter that they informed the Minister of Health about the issue through a letter dated February 26, 2026.

"However, we have received information that you are scheduled to proceed with the swearing-in ceremony for the duo today (Monday), in spite of our directive. Your actions will amount to disobedience of lawful orders of the Inspectorate of Government contrary to Section 34 (c) of the Inspectorate of Government Act, Cap 32, which is an of-

fence," the Deputy IGG wrote.

"The purpose of this communication, therefore, is to DIRECT you to halt any further action regarding the appointment of Dr Medard Bitekyerezo and Dr Muhammad Mbabali to the 9th National Drug Authority Board pending conclusion of the investigations or further orders from this office," she ordered.

Board meeting on Monday?

Yesterday, the NDA held a meeting at Four Points by Sheraton in Kampala, a place which government sources indicated to be the inauguration venue. However, we couldn't independently

establish whether it was an inauguration ceremony or not, as it wasn't open to the media.

When our reporters arrived at the hotel, they were denied entry. However, the digital room displays indicated a National Drug Authority (NDA) meeting was underway, and our team discovered Dr Medard Bitekyerezo and other officials were inside.

Dr Bitekyerezo expressed surprise at the media's presence, clarifying that it was a standard board meeting to which reporters were not invited. At that, the reporters were then sent away by hotel workers and the security guard before gaining access.

Ali Munira, the IGG spokesperson, told *Daily Monitor* yesterday that there was no swearing-in. "Maybe they are meeting to discuss how to proceed, but the directive is, no swearing-in," she said.

Mr Abiaz Rwamwiri, the NDA spokesperson, also re-echoed her remarks, saying NDA would cooperate with IGG. He dismissed claims that there was a swearing-in of the new board in a closed-door meeting in a Kampala hotel.

"I don't deal with gossips, if anyone has pictures of any inauguration, let them share them," he told *Daily Monitor*.