

Probe finds more loot in Land Fund

Compensation. Several people were paid millions of shillings on the orders of the Lands minister.

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KAMPALA. The Commission of Inquiry into Land Matters has unearthed more rot in the plunder of billions of shillings from the Uganda Land Fund meant for compensation to absentee landlords in the greater Bunyoro region.

Evidence presented yesterday before the Justice Catherine Bamugemereire-led commission shows that the Minister of Lands, Ms Betty Amongi, instructed the Uganda Land Commission (ULC) chairperson, Mr Baguma Isoke, and the Undersecretary, Mr Albert Mugumya, to urgently pay eight people Shs621m from the ULC account.

Ms Amongi ordered the payment on November 23, 2016, citing authority from the President's Principal Private Secretary, Ms Molly Kamukama, her ministry and the Finance Minister, Mr Matia Kasajja.

The beneficiaries of this payment include Agnes Bagaya who received Shs100m Pius



At work. Head of the land probe commission Justice Bamugemereire at a recent session. FILE PHOTO

guya (Shs100m) and Dimitilia Katusabe (Shs100m).

Others are: Kuraish Barinda (Shs50m), Nicholas Jemba (Shs60m) and Patrick Zikanshangyiza (Shs60m). "The purpose of this communication is therefore to authorise the payment of the above beneficiaries. However, I will expect a report on the issues raised in my earlier communication referred to above," Ms Amongi wrote.

Again on October 31, 2016 Ms

Sebagereka Shs776m due to ill-health and Mr Barinda Shs50m on account of old age.

Appearing before the commission yesterday, Mr Zikanshangyiza was interrogated and admitted he received Shs100m out of

WHY LAND FUND?

The Land Fund was established under the Land Act to resolve long standing conflicts between bona fide

Shs904m which was the value of his land measuring 264 hectares in Buyaga, Kagadi District.

Mr Zikanshangyiza, a businessman, said he paid Shs200,000 to facilitate the survey and valuation of the land, but declined to reveal whom he paid for the work.

"I approached and asked him [Mr Baguma Isoke] about how to access the Uganda Land Fund and he told me the procedure," he said in answer to questions

S.Sudan talks push amid disagreement

BY RISDEL KASASIRA
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KAMPALA. After five days of closed door South Sudan peace talks the warring parties on Monday agreed on only three issues out of more than 11 demands raised by the opposition in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

The information government minister, Mr Michael Makuei, told the media that the parties had agreed on cantonment of troops near Juba, unifying all the forces into one army and cessation of hostilities.

However, Mr Makuei said they had disagreed on the timelines when the different fighting groups should be integrated into one national army.

The five-day talks were mediated by South Sudan religious leaders in February 2018.

Faith-based groups requested the Intergovernmental Authority on Development that has been leading the talks to give South Sudanese

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