

IGG PROBES NDA **IRREGULAR BOARD** APPOINTMENTS

By Michael Odeng
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The Inspector General of Government (IGG) has launched investigations into alleged irregular appointments of some National Drug Authority (NDA) board members.

The investigations follow a whistle-blower's complaint alleging that several members of the NDA were appointed irregularly and without adherence to due process.

According to the petition, Dr Medard Bitekyerezo and Dr Mûhammad Mbabali were appointed on November 7, 2025 as chairperson and board member representing the Uganda Dental Association, respectively.

The whistle-blower claims the appointments were made in anticipation of the expiry of their current contracts on February 20, 2026.

AUTHENTICITY OF THE COMPLAINT

IGG spokesperson Ali Munira confirmed yesterday that the Inspectorate had received a complaint and commenced investigations into the matter.

Munira also confirmed that the IGG received a complaint regarding the appointment of the new board. However, she said the office was still verifying the authenticity of the letter, purportedly stopping the appointment.



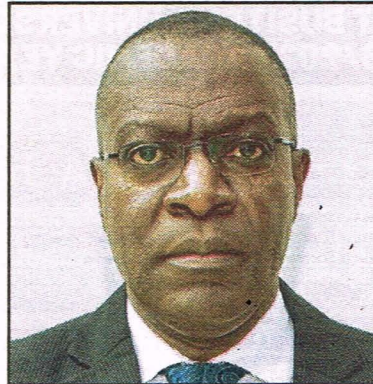
**IGG spokesperson
Ali Munira**

"The complaint has been received. I can confirm that we have it. However, I can only confirm documents that are officially issued by our office. The letter of complaint I saw does not have a signature and is not even written on headed paper. What is on record is that the IGG has received a complaint," Munira said.

Munira added that confirmation of whether the letter originated from the IGG would be made after further verification.

"I can only confirm the authenticity of this letter tomorrow after cross-checking. For now, I cannot verify whether it is genuine," Munira said.

Meanwhile, efforts to get a comment from NDA spokesperson Abiaz Rwamwiri were futile, as calls to his known phone numbers went



**NDA chairperson
Dr Medard Bitekyerezo**

unanswered.

The whistle-blower has asked the IGG to halt any further action regarding the constitution of the ninth NDA board, pending completion of investigations or further guidance from the Inspectorate.

ALLEGATIONS

The whistle-blower alleges that the appointments breached established procedures, including nomination by respective professional bodies, security vetting by Interpol, issuance of a certificate of financial implication by the finance ministry and approval by Cabinet.

The petition further states that Bitekyerezo and Mbabali have served on the NDA board since 2017, completing nine years of service and

are now set to serve an additional three-year term ending in 2029.

"The Act is silent on the number of terms a member may serve," the petition reads in part.

Established under the NDA Act, the authority comprises 20 members. The whistle-blower argues that the board's size and composition are too large and diverse to effectively deliver on its mandate.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST CITED

The complainant also raised concerns over potential conflicts of interest within the board's membership.

The whistle-blower notes that Bitekyerezo also serves on the board of the National Medical Stores (NMS), while NMS general manager Dr Moses Kamabare sits on the NDA board, despite the NDA's supervisory role over NMS in product quality assurance.

The petition further cites Section 5 of the NDA Act, which establishes an NDA commission consisting of the chairperson and four members selected from the authority.

The commission exercises functions similar to those of the full authority and has powers to determine its working procedures.

According to the whistle-blower, this arrangement creates an alternative power centre within the authority.

It also blurs the separation of roles between the commission and the full board as claimed by complainant.

NEW BOARD INAUGURATION

The inauguration of the new board had been scheduled for today at Four Points by Sheraton Hotel in Kololo, Kampala. The Chief Magistrate of the Uganda Wildlife Court, Gladys Kamasanyu, is expected to preside over the swearing-in ceremony.

Sources say divisions among some board members, with several reportedly considering skipping the ceremony over fears of possible arrest for contempt of the IGG, which exercises powers equivalent to those of the High Court in such matters.

The complainant states that the issue requires urgent intervention to prevent what is described as the regularisation of irregular appointments.

Under Article 230(1)(a) and (c) of the Constitution and Section 7(1) (a) and (c) of the Inspectorate of Government Act, the Inspectorate of Government is mandated to enforce adherence to the rule of law and principles of natural justice, as well as promote good governance and efficiency in public administration.