

By Nelson Kiva

The Inspectorate of Government (IG) has embarked on simplifying the Leadership Code Act as part of the effort to enhance transparency in public service.

Speaking during the external validation exercise at the Office of the President Auditorium in Kampala on Thursday, the Inspector General of Government (IGG), Aisha Naluzze Batala, said the intervention is intended to make it easy for public servants to understand the Code.

"Laws can appear complex and difficult to interpret, which sometimes limits their effectiveness. Initiatives such as this user guide to the Leadership Code Act, Cap 33, are therefore important because they simplify the law and make it more accessible,"

# IGG simplifies Leadership Code as wealth declaration deadline looms

## WHAT OTHERS SAY

Dr Patricia Okiria, the deputy Inspector General of Government, said although the Leadership Code remains one of the powerful preventive tools in the fight against corruption, its effectiveness depends largely on how well people understand their duties and responsibilities.

"A simplified version will bridge the gap between legal complexity and practical compliance by presenting the law in a clear and reader-friendly language," she said.

Rose Karugonjo, the chairperson of the Leadership Code Tribunal, commended the continued collaboration between her office and the Inspectorate of Government in enforcing the Leadership Code.

Batala noted.

She said the initiative comes at a time when 300,000 public

officers are expected to declare

their wealth to her office as required by law by April 30.—

"The simplified guide is expected to serve as a definitive

roadmap for public officials, helping them navigate their legal obligations with greater ease. By stripping away dense legalese, the IG aims to foster a culture of transparency," Batala said.

### PENALTIES

The Leadership Code Act was enacted to provide for a minimum standard of behaviour and conduct for public leaders.

If a public leader fails to declare wealth, he/she may face penalties under the Act. They may include being fined up to 80 currency points (sh1.6m) or imprisonment for up to

two years, or both.

The leader may also be removed from office if found guilty of breaching the Code or disqualified from holding public office for a specified period.

The IGG investigates suspected breaches and may prosecute or recommend disciplinary action.

### STAKEHOLDERS

The validation meeting brought together public officers from several government institutions, including the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, Uganda Revenue Authority, the Judiciary, public service ministry and the local government ministry, among others.



Batala, the IGG