

By Michael Odeng

The Inspector General of Government (IGG), Justice Naluzze Aisha Batala, has kick-started the valuation of 17 properties recovered from corrupt public officials, in a move aimed at facilitating their disposal and recovery of stolen public funds.

During a site visit yesterday, Batala inspected one of the properties located in Kitende along Entebbe road in Wakiso district. The property, previously owned by a former Uganda National Roads Authority (UNRA) staff member, is among those forfeited to the state following investigations.

However, the name of the former UNRA staff was not disclosed for investigations. UNRA was dissolved in December 2024 following the repeal of the UNRA Act 2006, with its functions, assets and staff reassigned to the Ministry of Works and Transport.

INVESTIGATION DETAILS

Findings by the Inspectorate of Government (IG) reveal that the official under-declared his assets by sh1.6b. To avoid prosecution, he surrendered a property comprising 10 rental apartments situated on Busiro

Sh1.6b in illicit assets: IGG clears sale of ex-UNRA staff wealth

Block 383, Plot 9726.

According to the IG; the apartments generate a monthly income of sh7m, which is remitted to the Inspectorate's Asset Recovery Account held at Bank of Uganda.

Justice Naluzze commended the investigators for their diligence, noting that the institution remains committed to tracing and recovering illicitly acquired assets.



CURBING CORRUPTION

The Inspectorate of Government registered 1,516 complaints during the period, sanctioning 1,151 cases (75%). It implemented 378 out of 1,392 recommendations (27%), conducted eight systemic investigations and seven reviews to address structural weaknesses in public institutions. At the end, 246 breach-of-code investigations were concluded.

“We shall continue pursuing individuals who steal public resources. Asset recovery remains a key strategy in ensuring accountability,” she said.

The valuation exercise is being conducted by the Chief Government Valuer to determine reserve prices ahead of disposal.

Justice Naluzze disclosed that five of the 17 recovered properties are developed and generating income, while the remaining 12 are undeveloped. All the properties are currently

managed by Knight Frank on behalf of the Inspectorate.

A FIRMER GRIP

The IGG noted that the recoveries, achieved through court orders, voluntary forfeitures and investigations, demonstrate the institution's growing capacity to handle complex corruption cases.

Justice Naluzze said the ongoing asset tracing and financial profiling strategy is critical in identifying and seizing properties acquired through illicit means. She said the latest developments should reassure the public that efforts to combat corruption

are yielding results and that the fight is far from over.

Over the years, the inspectorate has recovered several properties in the form of land and buildings, either as a result of court orders or forfeited in lieu of prosecution, or arising from investigations.

Early this month, the IGG revealed she had dismissed 12 public officials and interdicted four others since January as part of intensified efforts to curb corruption and misuse of public funds. The inspectorate also recovered sh2.41b in misappropriated funds during the same period, returning the money to the treasury.

The interdicted officials include chief administrative officers, accountants, teachers, nurses and parish chiefs who hail from the six districts of Bukwo, Masaka, Sironko, Pallisa, Kibuku and Kapchorwa. Three public servants received reprimands, while one was demoted to a lower rank, Naluzze said, while addressing journalists at the Uganda Media Centre.