

Inspectorate of Government arrests three hospital officials

The Inspectorate of Government (IG) on Monday evening arrested three officials from Tororo Hospital to assist in investigations into alleged negligence, abuse of office and aiding corrupt practices.

The arrests followed an impromptu inspection led by the Inspector General of Government (IGG) Aisha Naluzze Batala, accompanied by the director of ombudsman affairs, Savio Kakooza Ntensibe and the director of anti-corruption, Robert Lugoolobi, to assess service delivery.

Earlier, the IG team had met district leaders at the Tororo district chambers and Tororo municipal council as part of an inspection and familiarisation tour. They also inspected the damaged Nyangole Bridge

before proceeding to Tororo Hospital.

The arrested officials are Proscovia Awino, the senior hospital administrator; Livingston Okape, a junior staff member and Moses Owino, a mortuary attendant.

During the visit, the team discovered that despite the hospital being mandated to provide free medical services, patients were being charged for certain services, particularly surgical procedures. Some patients were also reportedly directed to purchase drugs from private pharmacies, even when the medicines were



Fighting corruption: Batala

BETWEEN THE LINES

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available in the hospital stores.

One female patient told the team she had been compelled to pay up to sh450,000 to undergo an operation, revelations that shocked the inspectors.

The team was further alarmed to find a mortuary attendant conducting a post-mortem examination despite lacking the required qualifications. He claimed he was acting

under the guidance of a doctor who was supposed to be on duty, but was absent at the time.

Inspectors also raised concern over the poor hygiene and sanitation conditions in the hospital's washrooms and mortuary. This was despite the availability of adequate cleaning supplies and medical stock in the stores, a situation they warned could increase the risk of infections.

While meeting district officials, Batala expressed concern over the rising number of corruption complaints linked to district service commissions across the country. She noted that practices such as the alleged sale of jobs undermine

public trust and compromise the quality of human resources in public service.

Batala advised district leaders, particularly the chairperson, to prioritise integrity and patriotism when appointing individuals to public offices. She also urged citizens to collaborate with the Inspectorate of Government to help eliminate corruption.

Tororo district LC5 chairperson John Okea commended the IGG for engaging local leaders, but called for improved efficiency in handling investigations.

He said many cases take too long to conclude, raising doubts about the agency's effectiveness.

Okea also said the district council is willing to offer land for the construction of a regional office for the IGG.