

HOMENEWS

# IGG report pins police, judiciary on corruption

BY MOSES MUGALU

**T**he Uganda Police force has yet again been branded the most corrupt institution, according to the latest report compiled by the Inspectorate of Government (IG).

Findings of the *Second Annual Report on Corruption Trends in Uganda 2011*, based on the Data Tracking Mechanism (DTM), confirmed the conclusions of earlier corruption reports that ranked the police top when it comes to taking bribes.

This is the third corruption report in less than two months that pins Gen Kale Kayihura's men and women on the vice.

Just two weeks ago, the *East African Bribery Index 2011* rated the Uganda Police as the most corrupt in the five-nation East African bloc. Earlier, a Transparency International report released in late October made similar conclusions on the force, which has also widely been criticized by human rights organizations for its brutal clamp-down on protesters this year.

Startling conclusions upheld by the latest report from the IG include the fact that citizen experiences of paying a bribe to a policeman (woman) surged from 53 to 79 percent in the last twelve months.

Researchers from the Economic Policy Research centre (EPRC), led by Xavier Mugisha and officials from the IGG's office,



IGG Raphael Baku

who analyzed the corruption trends, described the aforementioned rise as "steep".

Transparency International's *2011 Global Corruption Barometer* drew similar conclusions on the Uganda police in its report.

The judiciary followed the police closely, with citizen experiences showing they had paid bribes to judicial officials quite often before obtaining services. This occurrence in the judiciary, according to the report, rose from 34 percent to 59 in the last twelve months.

Mugisha, the lead consultant from the autonomous EPRC at Makerere University, explained that while compiling the report, they considered several reports on public financial management, governance indicators and media sustainability index. Procurement performances and persecutions by the IGG's office, among others, were also analyzed to track corrup-

tion trends.

Acting Inspector General of Government (IGG), Raphael Baku, noted that despite the grim picture painted, some institutions have registered success in fighting corruption.

In spite of the institutions' poor performance, Baku singled out the police and judiciary for having "taken serious steps since 2008". For instance, the police set up the Professional Standards Unit (PSU) to check on officers taking bribes and have involved the IGG's office while training cadets. The judiciary also set up an internal detective committee to spy on judicial officers.

"I think these are positive steps taken because of our past reports," Baku noted.

Baku, who has come under criticism for the way he has handled corruption charges against former vice president, Prof Gilbert Bukenya, says greed and need are the major root causes of corruption.

"But the vice is high among public officials because they are not well remunerated.

"I think if the government improves their pay, corruption will go down," the ombudsman said.

He also dismissed criticism that expenditure by his office on this report is a waste of taxpayers' money, saying the method (DTM) is a more accurate tool for tracking corruption trends. Previously, the IGG's office used to compile their report based on people (public) perception, which Baku said did not offer a perfect assessment.

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## Monal

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