

PUBLICATION OF DECISIONS/SANCTIONS OF THE PERMANENT SECRETARY/SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (PS/ST) ON ACCOUNTING OFFICERS RESPONSIBLE FOR NON COMPLIANCE WITH FINANCIAL REGULATIONS AND UNAUTHORISED SPENDING COMMITMENTS FY 2020/21- FY 2023/24

PS/ST's actions are largely informed by both the internal review mechanisms (Internal Audit, Budget Monitoring and Accountability, Inspections) and External Oversight (Auditor General).

Addressing the weaknesses in Public Financial Management is a continuous process that includes the following;

- Policy interventions to address gaps in Public Financial Management
- Withdrawing specific financial management responsibilities from responsible officers
- Matters where fraud is suspected are referred to the investigative organs of Government (Inspectorate of Government-IGG, Police Criminal Investigations Directorate (CID), and Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP)) for further review.
- Special in-depth audits by the Auditor General or the Internal Auditor General
- Progressive review of agreed corrective action plans
- Cautioning responsible officers
- Capacity building and sensitization

Section 11 (2) (g) of the Public Finance Management Act, 2015 requires the Secretary to the Treasury to appoint or designate Accounting Officers, except that the Secretary to the Treasury shall not appoint or designate a person an Accounting Officer where, according to the report of an Internal Auditor General or the Auditor General, that person has not accounted for the public resources or assets of the vote for a financial year.

For the period FY 2020/21- FY 2023/24, the PS/ST took the following actions;

1. FY 2022/23; The Chief Administrative Officers of Nabilatuk District Local Government (DLG) and Bugweri District Local

Government (DLG) were found to be ineligible for appointment as Accounting Officers as a result of weaknesses revealed in the accountability for public resources or assets.

2. FY 2023/24; Twenty-one (21) Accounting Officers (18 DLGs and three (3) Central Government entities) have been found to have weaknesses in Public Financial Management, and therefore ineligible for appointment as Accounting Officers for FY 2023/24.
3. The Internal Auditor General has been instructed to review the effectiveness of the internal controls and governance issues in the Uganda Support to Municipal Infrastructure Development-Additional Financing (USMID-AF) and Uganda Intergovernmental Fiscal Transfer (UgIFT) Programmes with a focus on irregular expenditures reported in the Auditor General's report for FY 2020/21. This process is ongoing.
4. FY 2020/21; Notified the Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Assets Authority (PPDA) to blacklist four (04) companies that were found to have flouted contractual obligations in Butaleja and Kole District Local Governments.
5. Irregularities in the implementation of capital works in Butaleja District Local Government; Matter was referred to the Police Criminal Investigations Directorate for investigation and possible litigation.
6. Irregularities in the Government payroll; Requested the Auditor General to conduct a special audit of the entire Government payroll. This process has commenced with a head count of all Government workers and the report is expected by the end of June 2023. This will inform further action on those found culpable.

Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development
24th May 2023