

BLACK MONDAY

Newsletter

Citizen Action Against theft of our money without SHAME!

EDITORIAL

The horrendous amounts of money stolen that came to the attention of Ugandans last year sparked civic action through the Black Monday movement and the women were not left behind. We joined many other citizens all over the country to say “Enough is enough!!!” We cannot afford to continue to be silent while taxpayers’ money is being stolen. 16 women die every day while bringing forth life; 39% of Ugandan women aged 15-49 cannot read at all; women provide 70-80% of agricultural labour and yet still use rudimentary tools for farming; drop outs are higher among girls with only 34% of the enrolled girls joining p7; The sad story goes on and on and on.

Arguably theft of public resources affects everyone, young and old; men and women; rich and poor; rural and urban but we dare say that it affects women more than it does men. Women are more vulnerable to the impact of corruption than men, and this is particularly true of corruption in public service delivery. As women form a larger proportion of the poor and take primary responsibility for child care and care of their families, they are more reliant on freely provided public services. As a result, corruption in public service delivery has a disproportionate impact on women.

In this month’s Black Monday Newsletter, the torch is shone brightly on how theft of public resources affects women in Uganda...its impact...and our resolve to fight this terror. Our backs are breaking under the yoke of trying to sustain our families and communities while wanton theft of our resources is going on unabated. We want better lives for the women of this country, for our mothers and our sisters and we will not rest until we see the political will to ensure zero tolerance to corruption. This is our country and we must all play our part to end the theft of our money. Let us all join hands and work together and believe that we can make a difference. The TIME TO ACT IS NOW!

— patricia.munabi@fowode.org

Women carry the heaviest burden of grand theft of public resources.



A mother pushes her own bed in the maternity ward before giving birth. Our mothers have been subjected to such trauma under the run-down health care systems.

We have ceased to call it corruption. What is happening in Uganda now is grand robbery, driven by inexplicable greed. Theft of public resources has undermined the public good as seen not only in the near collapse of social services but also through the extreme degeneration of human dignity. The level of wanton theft where majority of the people live on the edge organizing themselves more around burying their kind, than around health and wealth creation, is a direct function of the redirection of resources and energy from the public good to individual aggrandizement.

Recent research conducted in 2012 by Centre for Basic Research (CBR) around aspirations on Uganda at 50 Years of independence brought out the issue of corruption and greed as one of the key predicaments of Uganda today. Accordingly, greed was powered by extreme forms of

individualism bringing into play strong sentiments such as “Uganda is not a viable project”.

As a weapon of mass destruction, grand theft quickly undermines society vitality. But in this mass there are more losers than others. The Ugandan woman’s back is on the direct firing line.

Women bear the harshest brunt of a heavy disease burden in the face of a defective health system. At the very physical level, women toil as they take care of their children, husbands, brothers, fathers, sisters, in-laws and mothers, within a traumatised health care system. Men may suffer the same but they have the luxury of taking some leave of absence, and they are more likely to be cared for than caring for others. Even when the man’s mother or wife needs care, he will look for the

Inside this issue >>

- 2 | POEM: Double Jeopardy
- 3 | Impact of corruption on women—Canon Muginya
- 4 | Theft of public resources: Voices of Ugandan women
- 6 | When the care taker becomes the patient
- 7 | Paying the taxes, not getting the service
- 8 | Corruption ledger

TURN TO PAGE 2

NOT FOR SALE

Enough is Enough! – Violence Against Women is Theft of Uganda’s Dignity

A young woman narrated this story in a recent study on violence against women:

In my first marriage, my husband was a drunkard and he repeatedly assaulted me. He beat me every night when he returned home. One fateful night, he came home drunk and when I asked him for money to buy the children food, he instead hit me using his elbow and I lost my eye. I just left him and went back to my home.

Middle Aged Women in a Focus Group Discussion - Tororo District

The voice of the woman above resonates with many who have lost lives, parts of their bodies, are deformed and live with disabilities because violence against women goes unreported, unpunished and unseen. Research has shown that violence against women is fueled by impunity that is created by institutions that do not function. Because a man knows that he will beat a woman, defile a girl and then pay a bride to a corrupt law enforcement officer either at the police station or at a magistrate’s court is an expression of the rot that a corrupt society has to contend with.

We could continue to worry about the billions that are stolen but clearly the way women and men treat each other at family level says a lot about what we are as a



Domestic violence forms part of the gender face of corruption

society. For the last 50 years we have failed to conclude a law to regulate our marriages. The debate has now become a money-minting venture with the Uganda MPs as the latest beneficiary with five million wasted on each politician to go and ‘poison’ communities with irresponsible talk on the Marriage and Divorce Bill.

The existence of a patriarchal system that abuses women and a patronage system that abuses states resources with impunity implies that we must see the *gendered face of corruption* and appreciate that the theft we see in public life is rooted in the ‘relational-rot’ we live at family level. Sorting out the mess in Ugandan families will go a long way in sorting out the mess in

public service.

A recent study has indicated that the annual estimate of direct cost of the victims of Intimate Partner Violence amounts to about Ugandan shillings 16.4 billion. This amounts to over 0.03% GDP loss from reported domestic violence cases. If we take it that on average only 10% of the cases of violence against women are reported, this indicates that the GDP loss to the country could be anywhere in the region of 3% of GDP using this rough estimate. This is a significant loss for the country. It is also important to recognize that a significant amount of money that constitutes the costs incurred by women are costs that go to bribery – of the police, of community elders, of medicine men, of courts of laws and several other institutions that flourish on this corruption that affects many women across the country.

It therefore implies that as we keep an eye and say - enough is enough on corruption - we should also say - enough is enough to violence against women. If Uganda as a country is going to prosper, that prosperity must start with relationships that are healthy and devoid of violence! If ending corruptions starts with you then ending violence against women should start with you.

— r.ssewakiryanga@ngoforum.or.ug



DOUBLE JEOPARDY

I deliver on the floor AND YET
I pay for their treatment abroad
I walk miles on foot for water AND YET
I pay for their piped water
I work under the worst conditions AND YET
I pay for their air conditioned offices
I live a peasant’s life style AND YET
I pay for their luxurious lives
I educate my children in the
worst remote schools AND YET
I pay for theirs in first class schools
I eat one meal a day AND YET
I pay for their four meals a day
I live in a slum AND YET
I have built for them palaces
I have shouldered all this and this is
what my WILL reads
I die giving birth on the floor AND YET
I was a committed and responsible Citizen
I diligently paid taxes and their salaries
I die indebted because I paid all their debts
I leave nothing AND YET die very disappointed
I leave this world of suffering AND YET
my child inherits it
I fear for her future; a prostitute, beggar,
slave, HIV positive, thief, drop out
or even premature death
Because I was faked- I did not get
the value of what I paid for
Whatever I paid for – I lost to corruption
I die poorest AND YET made many richest
The world calls me a zero AND YET
calls them heroes
My child knows nothing also calls me a zero
AND YET them heroes
This hurts me more, I die lamenting
I know deep down, I am the hero
AND YET them zeroes
They are because of me
I am the silent hero
I lose my life giving birth on the floor
I know it wouldn’t be if someone
did not eat my money
My child’s future would be great
and I would be a hero to her
My country, our country would
achieve Vision 2040
A reality and not a myth,
Engraved on stone and not written on water
If someone does not eat the money,
our money, tax payer’s money!!!
IT STARTS NOW, IT STARTS WITH YOU

— kythsut@gmail.com

Women push the weight of grand theft of Public Resources

FROM PAGE 1

next female probable to take on the role. The burden of care in a collapsed health care system increases women’s morbidity as well as reducing their productive potential.

Theft of public resources has clearly undermined the rural economy. Uganda has more than ever before become a one city economy. The rural economy is near collapse because individual greed has meant diversion of government energy from productive sectors in general – and, in particular, no or half-hearted investment in the agricultural sector. Amazing that we

are always singing, “Agriculture is the mainstay of over 80% of the population. When only 3% of the national budget 2013/2014 is allocated to agriculture and even that small percentage never finds its way to the sector, then 100% of the population is in jeopardy since we all have to eat. But women are even in a bigger jeopardy. As returns from agriculture keep on dwindling, it ceases to be an attractive activity for men. Once again, men have the luxury to take some leave of absence to look for more lucrative sources of livelihood. This leave of absence can land them to trade and boda boda business but it can also land them into total idleness and hopelessness, where

the bar becomes a sole representation of manhood. One would not need to call on rocket science to figure out the impact of such a scenario on women. There is the physical burden of women almost single handed struggling to put food on the table. But the larger picture is that as the vitality of the rural economy is undermined, social cohesion is at stake. The sense of hopelessness reduces respect for human dignity, a good breeding ground for violence and lawlessness. And finally when the ladder collapses, it is those at the bottom of the ladder that suffer most. The Ugandan woman’s back is at the bottom of the ladder.

— jahikire@ss.mak.ac.ug

The Ugandan Woman's heart bleeds: Impact of corruption on women

When considering the extent corruption has penetrated and eaten up our beloved country, I relate it to the Christian confessional prayer before the absolution that states: "We acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins and wickedness which we... most grievously have committed ... we are heartily sorry for these our misdoings. The remembrance of them is grievous unto us; the burden of them is intolerable"

Indeed, the burden of corruption is most felt by women and mothers; especially in the rural areas of the country. For instance early this year in Kotido district, Mary is sick but also pregnant daughter got into premature labor, induced by the illness. The local birth attendant failed to deliver her. At the nearest health centre, she is told there are no drugs and was referred to the nearest drug shop 15 kilometres away. She had no money for neither the drugs and transport! As if that was not enough, the road to follow was impassable. Like most of rural murrum roads, it had not been properly maintained for a long time. The alternative possible road to same place would take at least 2 hours to reach. Consequently, Mary lost her grandchild that day.

Much as the Ugandan woman appreciates government's efforts in Universal Primary and Secondary Education, children in these schools are not getting what would be expected. The teacher – pupil ratio is too high. One teacher in these schools handles so many pupils because the government does not have the money to employ extra teachers. Many young teachers have qualified, yet the government cannot afford to recruit them which otherwise would rectify the sorry conditions in the schools and provide employment opportunities to our unemployed graduate sons and daughters.

It causes the Ugandan woman's heart to bleed when amidst such circumstances she hears that in various ministries money has been swindled to the tune of so many billions or trillions. Worse off still, the culprits don't pay back the lost monies and are gently handled and considered in the judiciary, since they are considered sole bread earners of their families. At the same time people die due to lack of medication; some children drop out of school because their parents have lost pensions. Others still in the active service have started to go many days without salaries. There is no specific

explanation for such, but most likely donors have withdrawn their funds due to corruption.

The glaring rate of unemployment in the country has turned the Ugandan children into slaves by the citizen tycoons and foreign investors within their own home land. Many young men and women must earn a living, at the cost of being abused and exploited at work.

Parents, guardians and widows/widowers who struggle to educate these youngsters go on to pay subsistence, accommodation and travel costs in the places of work, because the youths are paid mere peanuts by their employers. Yet the youths must acquire number of years' experience ahead of lucrative future employment opportunities. Therefore, the poor Ugandan woman makes sure that her daughter or son eats, sleeps, travels and appears descent enough as they work for the tycoons who do not fairly pay their young employees - if at all they pay them. Research has shown that many employers in the private sector hardly pay these youths; leave alone the very rough working conditions.

One imagines what befalls the poor vulnerable, especially the girls. Besides exploitation at work, many are sexually abused by their bosses. Due to the unemployment miserable circumstances, others resort to prostitution that causes suspicion, unfaithfulness and instability in families; hence, prevalence of the domestic violence.

One cannot afford to exhaustively talk about the impact level of corruption on the Ugandan woman. One could go on and on and on - "The remembrance of them is grievous to the mother; the burden of it is intolerable".

May the merciful Lord forgive and save our beloved Uganda.

Canon Dr. Edidah - Mary K. Mujinya
Mothers Union President,
Province of Anglican Church of Uganda



'WE SUFFER THE THEFT OF PUBLIC VOICES OF WOMEN

"Enguzi [corruption] is getting worse and worse every hour. We women who are poor are mostly affected. Accessing proper medication in government facilities is becoming more expensive. In regard to that, when you try to seek justice, you have to pay police and other law enforcement officers. If you want a job in public service, you have to pay or offer your body. If your child cannot get a job and you have been spending money educating her, what next?"

— Esther, Busia

"When we come to deliver at night, the health workers ask us to go and buy paraffin for the lamp which is used in the maternity ward since there's no electricity; not even solar. This is very inconveniencing and dangerous to the expectant mother. It is also very insecure for the person going to buy the paraffin who is most times a woman because she can be raped on the way. Ever since the drug store was burnt by unknown people, health workers now close early and fear working at night. Patients who come late in the night are told to go to the health center IV which is about 26kms away; even expectant mothers. Thirdly, the health centre is short of equipment; the In Patient department is shared by both males and females due to lack of space and it has only 4 beds. There was a time when there were many people admitted but because the centre is small, some were forced to sleep outside on the veranda all night. The maternity ward has only 2 beds and pregnant mothers sleep on the floor when they are many. If it wasn't because of corruption, we would have a functional health centre.

— Elizabeth, Lyantonde

"I have not received my pension for a whole year now, all because the money was stolen by some selfish individuals. My son had to drop out of university because of the debts I accumulated as a result of such theft"

— Juliet, Rukungiri

"We are tired with this corrupt government. For us in the village we just hear that money has been stolen and nothing serious has been done to those individuals. This shows weakness from the government. We hear about government programmes like NAADS and NUSAF which are meant to benefit the very poor, yet again it is those that are somehow well off that benefit. Women are mostly left out, yet we are burdened with a lot of responsibility in the family. Government should revise this strategy and let 80% of the people benefiting from these programmes be women, especially the widows, very old and female headed households be the first priority".

— Christine, Napak



A mother who has just given birth awaits medical attention from the hospital floor due to lack of beds



Policemen rough up and arrest a female journalist at Monitor Publications during protests against media closure.



Our message is loud and clear



A woman desperately tries to search for food. She...



With corruption in Uganda, traditional methods of agriculture...

THE MOST FROM THE PUBLIC RESOURCES' WOMEN OF UGANDA



Wives try to crawl out of their houses in Napak after being evicted from Naguru barracks. One woman died from hunger a day later.



In Uganda, women won't stop using rudimentary tools to till the soil.



Police rough up one of the police officers' wives who was participating in a demonstration against eviction from Naguru barracks.



Toiling hard as the thieves enjoy our taxes

“We the women are undergoing a very trying time because of corruption. When government go through the Sub County to empower us with income generating activities, government officials find means of stealing our money which makes us to get less out of our entitlements. This is very disgusting! When shall we ever get what we are entitled to? We fight hard to get funds for our children to go to school. But a government official who earns 20 times what we villagers get a month, goes ahead to steal our money. Why doesn't government really put up a legal framework that can punish such officials squarely? We hear on radio that officers in Kampala steal billions of funds from ministries. This is the taxes we pay out of pain. When we go to hospitals, drugs are not there yet it is we women who use government health centres the most. Oh! I think Jesus needs to come back for us to be saved!

— Mary, Luweero

We hear that billions of monies has been stolen by one individual from OPM office, money that is meant for helping the poor like me. Our boreholes are broken and we walk long distance to fetch water. Why can't government ensure that such people are sentenced to death so that the rest can fear because it is us the poor down here who suffer most.

— Lucia, Napak

“I dropped out of school because the school first of all was too far from home and we had to walk some kilometres each day of the week on school day. Secondly the facilities were only there by their names (ghosts) because the headmaster was corrupt and selfish who mismanaged school funds for close to 13 years before he was transferred elsewhere. Three years ago I thought all about education would revive by the coming of Plan for Reconstruction and Development Programme (PRDP) fund for Northern Uganda but all went in thin air, yet our expectations were on our children especially girls to complete their studies and be at the forefront to fight for our women's rights that have for long been ignored and disrespected by men. But the unfriendly officials at the Prime Minister's office also mismanaged the funds, leaving the future of our children in darkness.”

— Margaret, Amuru

Tales of Despair, Agony, and Bitterness: When the care taker becomes the patient

“The bazungu should have remained and ruled us. Maybe things would be better,” Mama Victor struggles to say.

Victor, her 21 year old son is lying casually on a dusty, potholed and stained floor; with a rug tag mat and half torn blanket as his only beddings. This is not a street boy on Jinja Road. This dark skinned lad, bony to the letter with sunken eyes and wincing in excruciating pain is in a hospital. A regional referral hospital.

About two months ago, Mama Victor suffered from malaria and was admitted to this hospital located along the Jinja-Mukono highway. She battled the disease for three weeks and successfully cured. But the hospital destroyed Victor's life in the process. He caught tuberculosis that almost claimed his life early this year.

“Can you imagine patients with TB, malaria, AIDS and other diseases are all packed in one ward?” she wonders, trying hard not to shout and cause a scene.

That is how her son caught the contagious disease. His 47 year old mother was admitted and forcefully allocated space on the crowded floor where she slept a few inches away from a chronic TB patient.

Mama Victor still tries hard to figure out why and how she survived the air borne disease. And she is sure her son got infected from the women's ward. Indeed, a look at the hospital's patient statistics and records confirms that at the time she was admitted, cases of TB outnumbered other diseases by far. This can only give credence to her claim that several other patients got infected with TB and other



Many patients cannot access beds in public hospitals. They remain with only one choice of crowding and sleeping on the floor.

communicable diseases.

This men's ward has a capacity of 20 patients but currently accommodates more than twice the number. Yes, even with the broken beds, rotting lockers, worn out mattresses without covers and taps that ceased to run years ago. But all this does not concern Victor and his mother. What hurts the two to the bone marrow is the lack of drugs and close medical attention.

“The doctor said Victor must remain here so that they can closely monitor him but drugs are not enough, their machines are broken and all sorts of excuses,” the mother says.

“The procurement people say the Ministry of Health has no money to buy more drugs till

the government responds positively,” she relays verbatim what has come to be the doctor's anthem.

Yet Victor's predicament is only a tip of the iceberg. From Kisoro to Kotido, Mbale to Bushenyi, Margaret, a Uganda College of Commerce diploma holder searched for jobs till she swallowed the bitter pill of surrender. By the time the clock ticked midnight 2013, she had sealed the envelope of her New Year resolution. Do anything so long as it puts food on the table. She 'scooped' a job as a cleaner at a hospital for Shs. 65,000 per month. The deal? Report for work as early as 6am, clean the wards and ensure patients live in hygienic conditions throughout the day.

“I was a bit hesitant to take up the job because of the poor pay and hard conditions of work,” she says. The package of hard conditions to include: working without gloves, unless she buys her own and at best using a pair of gloves for at least two weeks.

Above all, she was to receive a pair of gumboots after a month. “Of course I didn't get protective gear to cover my nose and mouth while sweeping even when the ward floors are dusty,” she emphatically asserts.

Insurance at work? Her supervisor asked her and reminded her she is in a government hospital. “He told me to go to Nakasero Hospital or this one of Ian Clarke where things like insurance are catered for,” Margaret painfully reveals.

And that is how she got infected with tuberculosis only two weeks on the job. She fell ill and was admitted in the women's ward, only to get malaria a week later. She lazily points at the bushes surrounding the hospital and stagnant water in the blocked drainage channels that breed female anopheles mosquitoes which transmit malaria. “I thought I was lucky to get a net from the hospital being one of their staff but it was all torn and infested with bed bugs. It didn't help and that's how I got malaria,” she narrates, gently scratching the sores on her lips.

The medical workers have also had their share in this. Mary has worked almost 20 years in the nursing profession.

“We love our profession but our government doesn't love us. It loves its thieves,” she comments.

She has thought twice of resigning and abandoned the idea, thanks to the calling to be a nurse that “haunts” her.

“I can assure you we health workers love our profession but our government does not love us. Maybe it loves its thieves more than people saving lives,” she bitterly notes, stressing that she must not be quoted as the district's Chief Administrative Officer reprimands public staff for speaking to the press.

— okudaivan2009@gmail.com

On the 13th June 2013, the Minister of Finance Planning and Economic Development, Mrs Maria Kiwanuka read the national budget 2013/14 not only to the floor of parliament but to the whole country. She informed the public that Uganda was to finance about 80 per cent of the budget. This is a step to development as an indicator of an ambitious country towards medium level of development. However, with such a decision comes a need to increase the domestic revenue of which taxes are the major base.

She presented to the floor of parliament areas of tax proposals that could give the desired revenues; on kerosene, fuel and water which are majorly indirect taxes. In a poverty fight to get the poor out of poverty, such taxes have a great impact to the poor communities.

This ignited strikes by the business community, like traders and taxi drivers. This is because these groups are organized and easily stand to present their grievances.

TAX BURDEN ON WOMEN

But the majority of people is more affected by these tax decisions but not organized, especially women and girls of the rural poor communities.

The majority of the Ugandan women and girls dwell in the rural areas which are characterized by high levels of backwardness; use of kerosene lamps for light, health facilities are distant - especially those that address most of their health needs as pregnant mothers. Most of the rural women are engaged in agriculture and 70 per cent of all small holder farmers are women.

For girl child education in rural communities, which have the highest dropout rate of girls, such a tax burden will frustrate any effort

and still deny the poor women and girls their rights to freely accessing services that would allow them a meaningful standard of living.

An average rural household uses a kerosene lamp for light. This is what a rural school going girl child uses for reading her books in the night after helping out her mother or grandparents in doing some house work after school. A tax increment on kerosene would imply that the poor family would reduce the usage of kerosene. The girl child's hours of reading will be reduced which will significantly affect her performance at school. Maternal health is another critical area. Efforts towards increasing accessibility of maternal health ser-

vices are at the forefront of many development programmes. In the rural communities, we still have a problem of distant health facilities and a poor road network. Already, transport costs are high, and a tax increment on fuel will hike transport fares. Then, the already poor pregnant mother will make fewer visits to the hospital than recommended which is likely to put her and her unborn child to greater risk.

Tax increments on fuel are responded to with higher food prices. In an attempt to maintain their profits on food prices due to increased tax on fuel, middle men will reduce farm gate prices of agricultural produce. This will affect small holder

farmers the most with limited access to established markets. Most of the affected are women – the majority of small holder farmers. Taxes on kerosene, fuel will discourage education among girls, agriculture among the small holder rural farmers and perpetuate poor maternal health and poverty. They make the poor poorer since they are more constrained since incomes of the people do not increase proportionately with tax increments. This will immensely increase the income gap between the poor and rich in the country in the long run, a poor indicator of sustainable development.

— kyomuhangifatuma@gmail.com

Give us Public Servants of Good Conduct

— Women Demand for Accountability

1. We the Women of Uganda who constitute 52% percentage of Uganda's population would like to express our disappointment and raise a RED FLAG on the Perpetual Recycling and Appointment of Persons Named in the Theft of Public funds scandals. We note with concern that consistently, the President has appointed and re-appointed persons named in the theft of public resources that have not legally been cleared of these allegations. These reappointments create a public perception of a government that seeks to reward those high profile public officials implicated in the theft of public funds with re-appointments as opposed to being dismissed from public office. One such public official Mr. Pius Bigirimana former permanent secretary in The Office of the Prime Minister [OPM], was simply transferred to The Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development as our new Permanent Secretary.

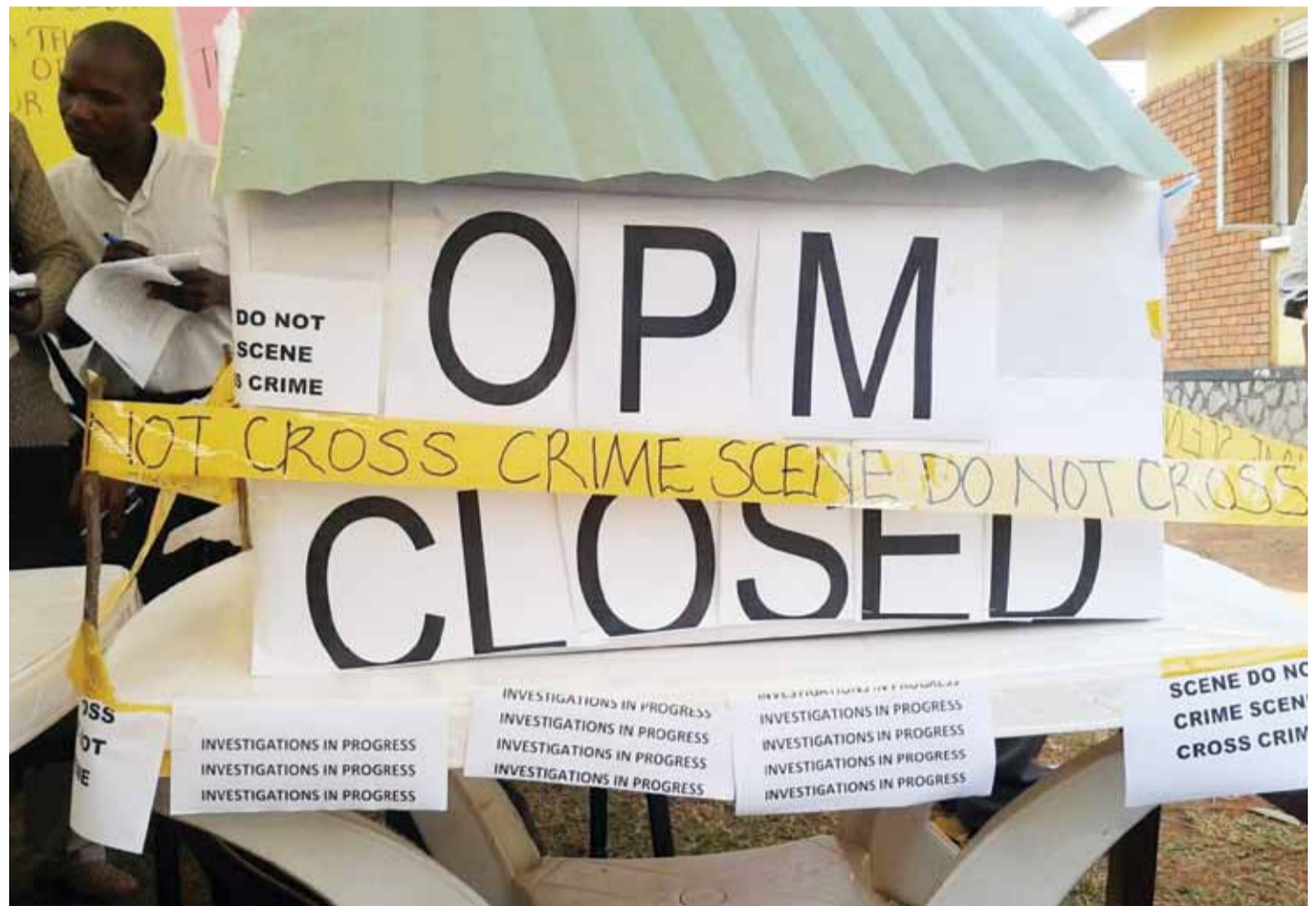
2. We wish to bring to light Auditor General's speech made while addressing the Speaker of Parliament and members of Parliament on 19th October 2012 on the OPM scandal.

- The Auditor General, John Muwanga accused Bigirimana of neglecting his role of approving the requisition of funds from Ministry of Finance to Prime Minister's office leading to loss of over 16 billion shillings!

- "The Treasury Accounting Instructions requires the Accounting Officer to be responsible for the maintenance of records. However it was observed that a number of accounting records went missing under his watch!" Muwanga notes this on page 3 of the Executive summary of his report.

- He further indicated that over 10 billion shillings was transferred from Bank of Uganda to Private accounts of employees in Prime Minister's office without the approved work plans contrary to the set guidelines.

- The Auditor General also accused Bigirimana of utilizing over 20 billion shillings which was illegally transferred from Bank of Uganda to Prime Minister's Crisis Management Account by his Principal Accountant,



Symbolic OPM building; women have raised an alarm calling for investigation into the stolen public funds in the OPM

Godfrey Kazinda.

- John Muwanga also accused Bigirimana of authorizing the payment of funds to personal accounts of Prime Minister's staff contrary to Government regulations.

- "The Accounting Officer did not seek information from Ministry of Finance and Planning regarding the transfer but went ahead and utilized funds that had been fraudulently transferred. The practice was contrary to the functions of the Accounting Officer provided under Section 14 of PFAAR," stated the report.

- The report which was copied in to Secretary to the Treasury, Bank of Uganda Governor, the Inspector General of Government, the Accountant General and Development Partners also pins over 10 employees in Prime Minister's office in corruption related scandals which led to loss of about 35 billion shillings.

- The embattled Mr. Pius Bigirimana has since declined to comment on the Auditor General's report.

- We also would like to inform the country that representatives of women's organisations recently met with Mr. Pius Bigirimana at his new offices and unequivocally demanded that Mr. Pius Bigirimana resigns his new appointment as Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Gender Labour and Social Development in public interest and as a demonstration of his commitment against theft of public funds.

3. We the women of Uganda Love Our Country, We pay our taxes, We therefore strongly DEMAND; That the President of the Republic of Uganda, Gen H.E.Y.K Museveni owes it to the women of Uganda to dismiss Mr. Pius Bigirimana from the position of Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Gender Labour and Social Development and in his place appoint

any Ugandan of repute, high integrity and competence. This will enable the Ministry to effectively utilize and realize the value for money for the 0.2% of the national budget allocated to the ministry. The failure to do so validates our fears that Government lacks the political commitment to end Theft of Tax payer's money, and to transform the lives of Women of Uganda through accountable, transparent and exemplary leadership. We ask the President to not forget too fast that the women of Uganda have been the largest voter base in all previous elections since 1996 and still have ability to vote wisely in future elections.

— Undersigned by WOMEN ORGANIZATIONS IN UGANDA

Statements from the press statement made by Joint Women Organizations on the decline in accountability to the citizens of Uganda released on Thursday 30th May, 2013.

SUMMARY OF CORRUPTION SCANDALS TO LOOK BACK AT



What must we do to get our money back?

Wear only black clothes every Monday to show you are tired of theft.

Demand political action from the President

Isolate every thief implicated in a theft scandal. Don't invite them to your burials, weddings.

Do not buy goods or services from businesses owned by thieves. Support Ugandans working honestly to make a living.

Until all the thieves have returned our money.