

Ugandans to the rescue



Thursday, April 29, 2010



Uganda police government built mansions!!!

Is this the same police we are used to seeing brutalizing Ugandans every time Kaihura coughs "Kill"? Is this the way they live with their families. For 25 years in power this the best M7 can do for the police that he has used so often to terrorize innocent Ugandans, is build those mansions like the one you see above! With ancient schools, dysfunctional health facilities and corrugated roads nationwide you wonder where all the aid and tax payer's money go! Yet M7 is worth \$10b.

By Mary Karugaba

Posted by Musa

STATE House debts had risen to over sh100b by June 2009. The Ministry of Justice spent sh110b in compensation, court awards and settlements last financial year. The Police do not know the actual staff strength of its force. And sh371b loaned to state and private companies may never be recovered.

These are some of the findings in the new Auditor General's report on Government expenses in the financial year 2008/2009. The report was handed over to Parliament last week.

The Auditor General, John Muwanga, in his report noted that although the Government has instituted strict systems to control expenditure, State House has incurred huge debts as a result of the purchase of the new presidential jet.

The Bank of Uganda advanced a loan of sh96b to finance the acquisition of the aircraft. According to the agreement, the amount is payable in installments of about sh10b per year with interest.

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Of the remaining arrears, sh1b was for equipment, over sh600m in telephone bills, about sh1b for vehicle repairs and almost sh500m for electricity. “The accounting officer explained that State House experienced budgetary pressures on the items that were under-funded thus putting pressure on planned activities which made it impossible to live within the budgetary provisions,” the report noted.

Bank of Uganda

The audit report also found that billions of shillings were being held redundantly on suspense accounts in the Bank of Uganda for long periods. For instance, sh16b was being held in unclaimed salaries for the period 2007/08 on a salary account. The funds are yet to be returned to the Consolidated Fund. In addition, sh5b in uncollected cash was being held on 31 bank accounts.

The Auditor General further established that sh371b in loans to state enterprises, private companies and agencies have been in arrears for a very long time without any repayments, “rendering its recoverability uncertain”. It, however, does not list the companies and agencies involved.

In addition, the report found that 13 foreign loans, totalling sh669b, had minimal or no disbursement, yet they have either expired or are nearing expiry.

The audit also revealed that by June 2009, the Consolidated Fund was overdrawn to a tune of sh2.1 trillion, up from sh1.2 trillion in June 2008.

Land titles

The report noted that the Ministry of Public Service does not have a title for the land and building where its headquarters are located. Neither does it have a title for the land on Lourdel Road, earmarked for the National Records and Archive Centre.

“The laxity on the part of the ministry in obtaining ownership of the land puts Government properties at risk of being encroached on or claimed by unscrupulous persons,” it states.

Furthermore, the title for the Uganda Museum went missing during the process of portioning off the part that was transferred to the Uganda Wildlife Authority, according to the report.

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The Auditor General also found that the defence ministry relocated Mbuya Military Hospital and Mbuya Army Primary School to Bombo with a view to sell off the land, yet it does not have legal ownership of the land. The land is reportedly owned by the Kabaka of Buganda and KCC.

Ministry of Defence

The report revealed that in the financial year 2008/2009, the defence ministry received \$33m (sh66b) in support for its operations under the peacekeeping mission in Somalia.

It further established that the ministry's debts had accumulated to sh39b despite the Government's commitment control system.

In addition, the Auditor General found that the ministry's land in Upper Mbuya has been subdivided and allocated to private developers. The ministry accuses the Uganda Lands Commission of illegally allocating the land to the private developers. The ministry allegedly lost sh474m after a company hired to construct Masaka Armoured brigade abandoned the work. The money was given as advance payments.

Ministry of Justice

Ugandan taxpayers keep paying the price for lost court cases and delayed payments by the Government. A total of sh40b was paid last financial year in compensation and court awards.

In addition, over sh70b was spent in settlement of claims for delayed payments on civil works and compensation arising from the cancellation of contracts.

Uganda Police

An audit into the Uganda Police showed inconsistencies in the staff list. "The current list that was submitted for audit showed a staffing position of 29,192 staff yet the payroll indicated a strength of 41,107. Management does not know the actual staff strength of the force," the report states. Issues of poor procurement, poor housing and over-expenditures were also noted.

Advances and debts

A total of sh12.6b in money advanced remained unaccounted for, contrary to financial regulations which require all advances to be accounted for by the year end.

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The biggest culprits were the Prime Minister's Office. Both had sh3b in advances unaccounted for.

The report further said 26 entities incurred expenditure amounting to sh130b which exceeded their approved budgets.

The Auditor General attributed the problem to weaknesses in controls and record keeping, as well as inappropriate application of the prescribed accounting policies. State House incurred the biggest excess expenditure of sh98b, followed by the Police (sh11b), Makerere University (sh8b), Uganda Prisons (sh3b), New York embassy (sh3b) and Mulago Hospital (sh1b).

The report also stated that some ministries spent money over and above their budget without parliamentary approval. The Government's total domestic debt increased from sh157b in the 2007/08 financial year to sh177b in 2008/09. In addition, the Government is yet to clear sh104b in pension and gratuity, according to Muwanga.

"Although funds have been released to clear the arrears over the years, many diverted some of the funds meant for arrears to clear current bills." The Accountant General attributed the increase in debts to "uncontrollable" costs such as court awards, compensation, water and electricity bills and other contractual obligations, including rent and contributions to international organizations.