



Obama's envoy warns Museveni and his Gang at the AU US to seize money stolen from Africans



President Museveni joins 23 heads of state who are in Kampala for the AU summit. PHOTO BY STEPHEN WANDERA.

By Angelo Izama)

Posted by Musa

Munyonyo

The United States will not provide a safe haven for money stolen from Africa by its corrupt leaders, US President Barack Obama said yesterday. Addressing at least 23 African leaders attending the African Union summit in Munyonyo, Obama's Secretary General Eric Holder said Washington would seize money stolen by corrupt leaders and hidden in America and the West.

Mr Holder is part of the American delegation to the Kampala summit led by Mr Johnnie Carson- America's top diplomat on Africa. In a wide ranging speech which touched on the terror attacks and America's help to Uganda in Somalia, Mr Holder delivered a stinger on the touchy issue of corruption.

The Kleptocracy recovery effort, he said, would target large-scale corruption perpetrated by foreign nationals. "I have assembled a team of prosecutors [to deal exclusively with this]" he said adding that the US was also willing to support the development of African judiciaries to deal with the monster of corruption. International cooperation over money leaving national treasuries and entering tax havens and western banks- has long been a sticking issue.

Ugandans to the rescue



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The United Nations in 2005 pioneered the Convention Against Corruption- that sought to cast a wider net against criminality across borders. Many African leaders have long been accused of personal extravagance at the expense of their populations- whose excesses like that of former Congolese leader- Mobutu Sese Seko have become legend. Governments in Africa- including Uganda, which lose close to Shs500 billion million in corruption each year, have also been accused of cosmetic attempts at fighting the vice.

Money recovered

For countries like Nigeria however, authorities worked with Switzerland to recover some money stolen by Gen. Sani Abacha. He was accused of stealing £3 billion from government coffers. While the move is a good initiative, it will require a more global effort to solve the problem.

Yesterday Mr Holder, however, promised more support for the African Union force in Somalia saying America was bound “not only by friendship and partnership but loss from the July 11 terrorist attacks in Kampala that also claimed the life of a US citizen.

At least 76 people were killed in the twin attacks at the Kyadondo Rugby grounds in Lugogo and the Ethiopian Village Bar and Restaurant in Kabalagala. Mr Holder said AU forces were making “heroic contributions” on the ground in Somalia and described attempts to justify the attacks as ‘unambiguously shameful’.

Such is extremely exciting news to someone whose ears consider corruption as completely distasteful! Am sure that if such hunt-dog is set, many will surely be netted. But I doubt the applicability of any move which attempts to net an African giant, say president, in such a way when they are still in power!

That is good. Do it very first before those thieves withdraw the money. Do it without favor. Africa is lagging behind because most of our rulers are thieves.

Will the US impound those personal jets bought with tax payers money when hospitals are not with any medicine?