

THE REJOINDER TO THE PRESS BRIEFING OF TUESDAY 12th DECEMBER 2023 BY THE STATE HOUSE ANTI-CORRUPTION UNIT, TITLED: 'BLACKMAILING OFFICERS INVESTIGATING FRAUDULENT ACQUISITION OF PUBLIC LAND IN LIRA'.

This rejoinder is to substantiate my earlier statement as far as the Investigations of land matters in Lira City and Lira District are concerned by the specified officers from the State House Anti-Corruption Unit (D/AIP Mr. Mugerwa Charles and Mr. Alinaitwe Samuel) and to prove that the said Officers are doing privately-facilitated and politically-motivated investigations to suit the interest of the funders (the Political actors and so-called Whistle Blowers), I have these statements to make as rejoinders:-

A. LAND SITUATED AT PLOT 4A STATION ROAD, RAILWAYS QUARTERS, PURCHASED BY MR. OKELLO LAWRENCE WHO IS CURRENTLY ON BAIL

1. State House Anti-Corruption Unit (SHACU) made mention that the land title was processed in the name of Aliro Mark who was **a minor** by then. This is not true. In 2018, Aliro Mark was 34 years old since he was born on 23rd April 1984 (NIN CM84074102R4HK), and this proves that the team from State House Anti-Corruption Unit is either carrying desk or hearsay investigations to suit the interest of the funders/ political actors/ so called whistle blowers (*Attached is the copy of the National ID of Aliro Mark as Annex A*).
2. SHACU said the signatures of the Area Land Committee were forged. If this is true, the application for processing land title is supposed to be displayed for 14days in public places before inspections and onward submissions to the District Land Board is done and I presumed this was done. In any case, why would the said members wait for the team from the State House to start making complaints?
3. According to the Statement which was recorded by Mr. Okello Lawrence with the necessary documents to the said team, Okello bought the land which had the land title. How would the team prove that Okello connived or facilitated the process, unless they were operating on hearsay?

4. In any case if either Okwir Joel (Aliro Mark) or Okello Lawrence had encroached the forest reserve, this is pure **civil matter** that should have been taken up by the National Forestry Authority (NFA) for restoration and damages as witnessed in the recent case of Te-Ilwa Forest Reserve in Lira City which is before Lira High Court as a civil matter. As I made mention earlier, before these parties, that there were other people who were already settled on the land like Tolbert, Immaculate Church of the Deaf and Mukwano Industries respectively, taking into account the said forest reserve basically covered 50% of the town Centre in the early 90s and therefore this concludes that the **Unit team don't move on the ground to carryout investigations but bases their investigations on biased information they get from the funders, Political actors and so-called Whistle Blowers who are too ignorant of land matters and thus, report to fulfill their personal or politically motivated interests.**

5. The team when recording statements, they are always threatening the suspects, to the extent of recording statement while on handcuff as happened with Mr. Okello Lawrence and this is making them not to attain the facts and that's why most of the cases can't stand before any court. Additionally, the **modus operandi** of their investigations leaves a lot to be desired. Mugerwa and Alinaitwe have resorted to storming people's private homes, bed rooms and entering into ceiling boards even without the presence of the LCI of the area and mature member of the family. This was witnessed during the arrest of Ojuka Anthony on the 10th November 2023 and Ocen Joseph Alwong, contrary to Article 27 of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda and I quote; **'Right to Privacy of person, home and other property. Clause 1; No person shall be subjected to: a) unlawful search of the person, home or other property of that person; or b) unlawful entry by others of the premises of that person. Clause 2; "No person shall be subjected to interference with the privacy of that person's home, correspondence, communication or other property"**. If these are genuine investigations, why can't they use Police Summon System through LCIs where the alleged suspect stay?

6. In any case one would wonder are the two officers (Mugerwa Charles and Alinaitwe Samuel) the only Officers trained for Lira, or one can easily suspect that they are in Lira for a mission, basically to gather resources for the Institution.

This, therefore reminds me of my earlier statement backed by the law that Mr. Okello Lawrence remains a **BONAFIDE PURCHASER FOR VALUE WITH INTEREST WITHOUT NOTICE OF FRAUD.**

B. PRINCIPAL STATE WITNESS/ COMPLAINANT/ WHISTLE BLOWER (ALELE STEPHEN)

1. The said team (Mr. Mugerwa Charles and Mr. Alinaitwe Samuel), investigating the land issues in Lira are already aware the above person is being investigated by Police from Lira City Central Police Station and Police Headquarters for forgeries, uttering forged documents and impersonation over the acquisition of Plot 39 Kwanja road in Lira City, which was reported in January 2023 but they still ignored pursuing this case because they are facilitated by the said person with the proceeds from the sale of the said Plot 39 Kwanja road. The genesis why Alele ran to the Unit is because he forged the signatures of the Chairman Lira District Land Board, Paul Chankoma and Hellen Anyango, the former Secretary Lira District Land Board and used it to process land title for Plot 39, Kwanja Road. When the secretary learnt of this, she opened a case of forgery on 23rd January 2023 at Lira Central Police Station, Referenced LCC 25/23/01/2023. Mr. Alele Stephen upon realizing that this case has been reported, he ran to Police and opened a GEF 003/23 counter accusation against the former Secretary Lira District Land Board at Lira CPS. Mr. Alele on realizing that his GEF was not working, he ran again to State House Anti-Corruption Unit and accused the former Secretary and sampled other people who don't support him to be selectively investigated by the unit and a GEF/111/2023 was opened by the Unit which the unit is now seriously following people without understanding the background of the matter (*Annex B*). I believe the proceeds of the sale of Plot 39, which was over 750 million is being used to bribe and facilitate Mugerwa Charles and Alinaitwe Samuel from the unit to cause unnecessary-

embarrassing arrests on officers and people of Lira City and Lira District. I also have documentary evidence where Mr. Alele Stephen is intimidating and sending messages to people promising them to be arrested by the Unit. Mr. Alele, being a whistle blower now believes he has the Unit, Police and Court in his hands and has become a super power who knows whatever is about to happen and who next to be arrested on trump-up charges. The team is equally being directed by the RCC Lira City to compromise investigation on Plot 39, Kwania Road, since the purchaser is the father-in law to the said RCC and all efforts are being done to silence the complainants of forgery case of their signatures which was used to process the title.

This is why in my earlier statement, I made it clear that the Unit (Mugerwa and Alinaitwe) have now partnered with criminals and protecting them by treating them as whistle blowers yet the bottom line is that they should have started with the so called whistle blowers. I have more detailed evidence on this which at an appropriate time will disclose to the HE the President that created the Unit. I therefore urge the Unit to review its entire operations in Lira District and Lira City regarding land matters.

2. To prove that the said team are not being impartial in their investigations, they are being accommodated by the said complainant (Alele Stephen) at his Hotel at Ayago in Lira City.
3. The said Alele is at the center of many land issues in Lira City and Lira District where he has been claiming to represent various institutions on land matters for his personal gain like the following plots in Ireda and other areas;

No	PROPRIETOR (NAMES USED)	BENEFICIARY (IES)	TITLES	PLOT NUMBER
1	Oruru Allan - 0774275001/ 0776540202	Alele Stephen	Whistleblower/ Secretary N.R.M Lira City	Plot 13 Alex Oremo Alot Road
2	Akol Sharon Tracy - 0774275001/ 0776540202	Alele Stephen	Whistleblower/ Secretary N.R.M Lira City	Plot 17 Alex Oremo Alot Road

3	Uganda Police force (Still in the process)	Alele Stephen and some individual Police officers from North Kyoga and Police Headquarters	Whistleblower and some high ranking police officers from North Kyoga and Police Headquarters under the cover of compensation out of court	Plot 2 Otibok close
4	Uganda Police Force (Still in the process)	Alele Stephen and some individual police officers from North Kyoga and Police Headquarters	Whistleblower and some high ranking police officers from North Kyoga and Police Headquarters under the cover of compensation out of court	Plot 2 Yosam Odur road
5	Uganda Police force (Still in the process)	Alele Stephen and some individual police officers from North Kyoga and Police Headquarters	Whistleblower and some high ranking police officers from North Kyoga and Police Headquarters under the cover of compensation out of court	Plot 4 Yosam Odur road
6	Uganda Police force (Still in the process)	Alele Stephen and some individual police officers from North Kyoga and Police Headquarters	Whistleblower and some high ranking police officers from North Kyoga and Police Headquarters under the cover of compensation out of court, without council resolutions, consent agreement and court order	Plots 30-46 James Ajal road (about 9.6acres)
7	Uganda Police force (Still in the process and illegal collection of rent)	Alele Stephen and some individual police officers from North Kyoga and Police Headquarters	Whistleblower and some high ranking police officers from North Kyoga and Police Headquarters under the cover of compensation out	6 Plots hosting the former Adekokwok Sub-county headquarters, where Lira City East

			of court, without council resolutions, consent agreement and court order	Division has been deprived of the local revenue from their building, without official documents from Lira District Land Board, property valuer, Engineering department and Councils
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But because we assume he is facilitating the team, all those are not worth being investigated.

C. ISSUES OF PUBLIC CONCERN/ CORRUPTION TENDENCIES EXHIBITED BY THE SAID OFFICERS (MR. MUGERWA CHARLES AND MR. ALINAITWE SAMUEL) IN THE INVESTIGATIONS OF LAND MATTERS IN LIRA

1. To prove that the team are doing personal jobs with the corruption tendencies, they have been accused of forcefully recovering land title (Freehold Register Volume, HQT1051 Folio 22), from the residence of one Awany Choudry, who is the father to Apolo Lydia by their agent at gunpoint and kept by the team before sale. The 10 Plots of land are located on Plot 28-37 (measuring approximately 1.3460 Hectares), Adea Kolnerio Close in the name of Apolo Lydia Susan and they are alleged to have sold the said plots to one of the Ministers through conniving with some City leadership, instead of taking it back to Lira District Local Government and therefore it seems like their trend of forcing people to surrender titles genuinely acquired to them is ostensible (*See Annex C*).
2. To prove that the team are carrying politically motivated investigations, some people whose files have been illegally and coercively sanctioned have been put

aside because they are alleged to support a political actor who is the mastermind behind the uncalled for operations of the Unit in Lira City and Lira District.

3. The said officers have gone ahead to threaten, intimidate, arrest and detain the alleged-people whom the Whistle Blowers selectively reported to the Unit and they coerce them to handover the title genuinely acquired if they should evade arrest and prosecution e.g. The arrest of Mwangi James (a bonafide purchaser for Value with Interest without notice of fraud) for Plot 6 Abosolom Oteng Road, using the Police of Lira City Central Police Station under their instructions, where he was given the condition to either handover the title or detained and therefore they are now investigating officers, at the same time acting like prosecutors who is vested with the mandate to cancel titles under court orders. Unfortunately, there are already a pre-written consent letters which are with one of the informers, one Mr. Abdu Agasaaki Olal who coerces the title holders to sign the letter for presentation to the Registrar of Titles, Lira MZO, for illegal Title Cancellation.
4. The said officers have started investigating civil matters, actually they are behaving like in Amin's Government (State Research Bureau), where when you hate someone, you go and pay someone in government to come and arrest and arraign before court even if the case is not going to stand, but the person shall have been ashamed e.g. Causing investigation on plot 44 independence road where someone called Ogwal Kasmiro on realizing that court is not helping him faster, resorted to the team to threaten the other party and yet the case is before court.
5. There are many cases that have been reported earlier, but because they are not being facilitated, they are ignored.
6. It is worth noting that the said team have been given the certified copies of past three minutes of the Lira District Council, resolving on the same issues of land regarding Ireda Housing Estate **for two elective terms** (Minutes of 28th November 2017, Minutes of 1st April 2019 and Minutes of 31st August 2022 respectively). In this respect, the owner of the land (Lira District Council) is not complaining and hence the said team is alleged to be putting the CAO under pressure to produce the

original minutes which I believe is intended to be destroyed. Above all, the interview they gave to the press after arresting Mr. Ojuka Anthony referred to the above three minutes as **“impugned minute of the council”** which is very wrong and it is an abuse to the constitutional principles of representation of the people of Uganda as stipulated in Article 176 (3) of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda and the Local Government Act CAP 243, Section 6 and Second Schedule Part 2. Therefore, one can only challenge Minutes of the Council through the High Courts of law.

7. Mr. Mugerwa and Alinaitwe expects District Land Board to operate like a Procurement committee, which is contrary to Section 62(6) of the Land Act CAP 227 and I quote; **“Subject to this Act, a Board may regulate its own procedure”**. They are also trying to usurp the powers of the Board which is contrary to Article 241 (2) of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda 1995 and I quote **“in the performance of its functions, a district land board shall be independent of Uganda Land Commission and shall not be subject to the direction or control of any person or authority but shall take into account national and district council policy on land”**. The same has been reinforced by Land Act CAP 227, Section 60(1) **‘in the performance of its functions, a district land board shall be independent of Uganda Land Commission and shall not be subject to the direction or control of any person or authority but shall take into account national and district council policy on land and the particular circumstances of different systems of customary land tenure within the District’**”.

D. REGIONAL STATE ATTORNEY (MR. KALINAKI BRAIN GEORGE)

1. The team from State House Anti-corruption Unit is alleged to be coercing the above officer to sanction files without substantial evidences and undue regards to the laws surrounding the cases. The trend has also been that when cases seem to be collapsing, they amend the charges to remove the cases from Court of Jurisdiction to Anti-Corruption Court and in all these, if a suspect was granted

bail, they demand for the cancellation of the bail which I have consulted and found it illegal.

2. Some other officers were even acquitted at the Court Preliminary stages like Mr. Okello Francis Olwa and others and this clearly shows that DPP should be questioned for sanctioning files that do not stand the test, hence wasting time and resources of the affected persons.
3. The said officer in Lira Regional Office is known for sanctioning a fabricated file E.g. Ref: Lira CRB: 185/2022 / Case No: 461/2023 of Uganda Versus Ojuka Anthony which was later dismissed at preliminary stage.

In conclusion, I am calling upon SHACU to review their method of investigations and where necessary the staff that have been assigned duties of investigations in Lira should be withdrawn and a new team instituted. The Head of SHACU, Brig. Henry Isoke is hereby advised to take appropriate action to address the manner of investigations and restrain the officers from causing injustices to the people of Lango.

Should this rejoinder be ignored, I will have no option but to compile detailed evidences and report for the attention of the H.E the President of the Republic of Uganda, who is the appointing authority of the Unit.

By copy of this rejoinder, the following offices are informed:

Inspectorate of Government
Director of Public Prosecution
Inspector General of Police
Principal Private Secretary to the President
Director CIID
State House Land Protection Unit
Police Professional Standard Unit

I thank you.

Ken Allan Owani

AN ACTIVIST, +256 782 346 922

Annex B:

AYAGO CELL,AYAGO WARD,
LIRA CITY EAST DIVISION,
LIRA CITY.

6th March 2023.

TO: THE HEAD STATE HOUSE ANTI CORRUPTION UNIT,
KAMPALA-UGANDA.

**RE:FRADULENT ALLOCATION OF PLOTS TO LIRA DISTRICT POLITICAL LEADERS
AND CIVIL SERVANTS AT IREDA ESTATE BY ANYANGO HELLEN SECRETARY
DISTRICT LAND BOARD.**

The table below shows how Government Plots in Ireda Estate were allocated to Lira District Political Leaders and Civil Servants in 2019 using their relatives names.

NO.	PROPRIETOR (NAMES USED)	BENEFICIARIES	TITLES	PLOT NUMBERS
01	Onyango Bosco 0772617882	District Executives	District Executives	Plot:07 Ben Emor Road
02	Apio Caroline 0772617882	District Executives	District Executives	Plot:09 Ben Emor Road
03	Opio James (Brother)	Okello George Ayo	Former Vice Chairperson LDLG	Plot:11 Ben Emor Road
04	Ekwang Geoffrey (Brother)	Oremo Alex Alot 0772617882	Former Chairperson LDLG	Plot:13 Ben Emor Road
05	Atino Hilda (Wife) sisiter	Ojuka Anthony 0772984458	Former Secretary Production and Natural Resources LDLG	Plot:17 Ben Emor Road
06	Akite Winnifred Elizabeth (Daughter)	Ocen Joseph Alwong 0772562542	Senior Land Management Officer	Plot:19 Ben Emor Road

06/03/2023
BULE STEPHAN

07	Alum Brenda Dorothy (Daughter)	Dr.Oweta Jacob 077265833	Former Chairperson District Land Board	Plot:21 Ben Emor Road
08	Atino Sidonia (Mother)	Omara Richard Awio 0772539675	Former Chairperson Production and Natural Resources Committee	Plot:23 Ben Emor Road
09	Edwe Dorcus Rita (Daughter)	Ameny Max	Former Land Board Member	Plot:02 Abosolom Oteng Road
10	Adong Eunice (Daughter)	Opio George Rashid	Former Speaker Lira District	Plot:04 Abosolom Oteng Road
11	Olong Dickens (Brother)	Anyango Hellen	Former Secretary District Land Board	Plot:14 Abosolom Oteng Road
12	Odongo Douglas (Brother)	Ateng Francis	Former Senior Assistant Secretary MZO-Lira	Plot:16 Abosolom Oteng Road
13	Ningo Moris	Ojuka Anthony	Former Secretary Production and Natural Resources LDLG	Plot:7H Bishop Odur Kami Road
14	Owani Kenneth Allan	Owani Kenneth Allan	Former Councilor Lira Municipal Council	Plot:28 Otim Ben Close

AS

06/03/2023

ALICE STEPHEN

OBSERVATIONS.

1. The above plots were allocated fraudulently by the then Secretary Lira District Land Board Anyango Hellen.
2. The District Land Board Allocated plots to their relatives and spouses Eg; **Ateng Francis** former Senior Assistant Secretary MZO Lira is husband to **Anyango Hellen** former Secretary District Land Board contrary to Laws of this Country.
3. The District Executive Committee by then robbed the people of Lira District in broad day light by allocating government Plots to themselves.
4. All the above plots were given free hold Certificate of Titles, denying the government revenue.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

- The Political leaders and Civil Servants who connived and fraudulently allocated the Plots should be Investigated and Prosecuted in the Courts of Law.
- The Relatives of these leaders also should be prosecuted for acting in concert in commissioning of the crime.

Thanks;



Alele Stephen-Complainant.

0774275001/0776540202

annexure D2



1000000070568



SL/55419

THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

REGISTRATION OF TITLES ACT

Certificate of Title

FREEHOLD REGISTER, VOLUME HQT1051 FOLIO 22

DESCRIPTION OF LAND

ALL THIS piece of land delineated and edged red on the plan hereto annexed containing the following area or thereabouts and situate as follows:

Area	County	District
1.3460 hectares	Lira Municipality	Lira

and known as: **Block(Road) ADEA KOLNERIO CLOSE Plot 28-37 at IREDA AGALI**
(Subject to conditions herein)

OWNERSHIP

APOLO LYDIA SUSAN OF P.O. BOX 49, LIRA

Date, time and Inst. No.

REGD 15/12/2016
AT 2:14 PM
INST. 00026993

Signature of Registrar

Is /are now the proprietors of an estate in fee simple in the land above described subject to the conditions and incumbrances herein after set out.

Dated this 15th day of December 2016

[Signature]
Registrar of Titles

Registry Copy

Volume HQT1051 Folio 22

MLB01021076



PRESS STATEMENT

Tuesday, December 12, 2023

BLACKMAILING OFFICERS INVESTIGATING FRAUDULENT ACQUISITION OF PUBLIC LAND IN LIRA

Following several complaints registered at State House Anti-Corruption Unit (SH-ACU) alleging, among others, irregular disposal of public land by officials of Lira City and District, the Unit, working with Police in Lira arrested one Mr. Okello Lawrence, a businessman and Mr. Okwiri Joel, a Chairperson Area Land Committee, Railways Division, on 6th December 2023.

The duo was later arraigned before the Lira Chief Magistrates Court on charges of Fraudulent Procurement of Certificate of title, Conspiracy to Commit a Felony, altering, destroying and defacing boundary marks of the forest, and clearing and occupying a forest reserve for commercial purposes.

Following their arrest and subsequent prosecution in Court, some activists in Lira have resorted to malicious accusations of witch hunt against Police and SH-ACU, specifically pointing fingers at some of our patriotic officers assigned to conduct the investigations.

Between 2018-2020, the said Okwiri as Chairperson Area Land Committee, Railway Division, in conspiracy with Okello forged signatures of other members of the committee and processed titles in the names of his son, Aliro Mark, who was a minor at the time. Okwiri, using his position, immediately facilitated the transfer of the same land from the names of his son into the names of Okello Lawrence.

Having fraudulently acquired a title, Okello went ahead to cut down part of the forest reserve and dumped murrum to drain it, and thereafter constructed a petrol station. He was directed by the Ministry of Water and Environment officials in Lira to stop his illegal activities, but he remained adamant, because of backup by some politicians.

Our investigations established impeccable evidence against Mr. Okello Lawrence and Mr. Okwiri. The case file was forwarded to Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) and was sanctioned with the

above mentioned charges, leading to the arrest of the suspects and arraignment in Court, which will determine the case on its merits.

Our investigators are carefully studying the reasons why some of the local leaders are siding with criminals, hell-bent on openly grabbing public land, including areas of the Lira Central Forest Reserve.

It should be understood that SH-ACU only investigates and upon clear evidence, the Office of DPP prefers charges and prosecutes those found culpable. Similar investigations are being conducted in other regions of the country.

We appreciate the efforts of the wananchi, who report to the Anti-Corruption Agencies all acts of impunity and corruption. The Unit reiterates its commitment to fight fraud and to firmly deal with the perpetrators.

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OP-ED

SHACU weaponized to settle political and personal scores in Lira City



By **Ken Allan Owani** [Envelope]

Saturday, December 9, 2023

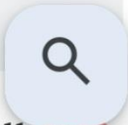


THE TWO PEOPLE HANDCUFFED ARE THE SUSPECTS; RIGHT IS LICRA CITY BUSINESSMAN, OKELLO LAWRENCE (PHOTO/HANDOUT)

3 Shares



State House Anti-Corruption Unit weaponized to settle political and personal scores in Lira City – a case study of the arrest of Mr. Okello Lawrence, an industrious businessman of Lira City



Much as the case is in court, I feel compelled as a citizen of Lira City, Lango Sub Region and this

Translate »

