

# Press Release

# Carter-Ruck

Date: 30 July 2013

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## **DAILY MAIL APOLOGISES TO PRIME MINISTER MBABAZI OF UGANDA**

Associated Newspapers, the publishers of the Daily Mail and Mail Online, has today apologised to Prime Minister Amama Mbabazi at a High Court hearing before Mr Justice Tugendhat in London.

The Court heard that on 31 October 2012, the Daily Mail published an article headed “£10m foreign aid went to cronies of Ugandan PM” and on the same day, MailOnline published an article headed “Britain and Ireland suspend aid to Uganda after £10m of funding ends up in Prime Minister’s account”. Andrew Stephenson, solicitor for the Prime Minister, told the court that the Auditor General in Uganda had produced a Report which had revealed irregularities, fraud and forgery on the part of staff working within the Office of the Prime Minister. There was no suggestion in the Report that the Prime Minister was responsible for, or benefitted from, the theft of the money.

Julian Darrall, solicitor for Associated Newspapers, confirmed that the publishers had undertaken not to repeat the allegations and agreed to pay the Prime Minister a substantial sum in damages and the legal costs. On behalf of the publishers, he apologised for the offence caused.

Speaking today from his office in Kampala, Prime Minister Mbabazi said:

*“I was shocked that these headlines were published in the English press. Neither I nor my friends benefitted from the acts of fraud and forgery. On the contrary it was at my direction, through the Permanent Secretary of the Office of Prime Minister, that the Auditor General’s investigation was instigated. Far from being involved or implicated in theft, I was responsible for the process which exposed the serious offences which have resulted, in June this year, in the conviction and sentencing of the former Principal Accountant. I am pleased that the publishers have acknowledged their error, and apologised to me in court.”*

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