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**TWO MORE KENYAN NATIONALS SENTENCED
FOR MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR FRAUD SCHEME**

CHARLESTON, W. Va. – Two defendants in an international, multi-million dollar fraud and money laundering scheme targeting vendors of state governments were sentenced today by United States District Judge John T. Copenhaver, Jr. Michael M. Ochenge, 33, of Lakeville, Minneapolis, and Albert E. Gunga, 30, of Chanhassen, Minnesota, were sentenced to four years in prison and 10 months in prison, respectively, for conspiracy to commit money laundering. The Court also ordered Ochenge to pay restitution totaling \$772,016.05, and Gunga to pay \$42,500 in restitution.

The convictions stem from a joint federal investigation following the diversion of millions of dollars from the State of West Virginia. Three others, Robert M. Otiso, 36, of Elk River, Minnesota; Paramena J. Shikanda, 35, of Minneapolis, Minnesota; and Collins K. Masese, 21, of St. Paul Minnesota, were sentenced last week for their roles in the fraud conspiracy. For more information regarding their sentencing, visit http://www.justice.gov/usao/wvs/press_releases/2010/aug10/081910.pdf . The final conspirator, Andrea Chegge-Kraszeski, 34, of Raleigh, North Carolina, is scheduled to be sentenced this Tuesday.

Specifically, the defendants, all Kenyan nationals, devised a scheme in late 2008 in Kenya, which resulted in the diversion of \$3.379 million from the states of West Virginia, Kansas, and Ohio, and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to bank accounts controlled by the co-conspirators. The funds were intended for legitimate vendors as payment for goods and services. The investigation revealed that in excess of \$770,000 was wired to bank accounts in Kenya.

The scheme targeted vendors who received significant payments from the states on a routine basis. In order to execute their scheme, co-conspirators located in the United States filed documents creating dummy entities with names similar to the legitimate vendors. Fraudulent bank accounts were then created in the names of the targeted vendors. With information acquired through the Internet and otherwise, direct deposit authorization forms were completed for the targeted vendors, including Deloitte Consulting LLP; Unisys Corporation; Accenture LLP; and Electronic Data Systems, Inc. Authorization forms were then mailed to the states along with voided starter checks on the fraudulent accounts. The direct deposit authorization forms purported to authorize the states to send electronic payments for goods and services to the targeted vendors. The fraudulently submitted forms were intended to and did cause several states to route payments to the fraudulent bank accounts established by the co-conspirators, thereby allowing the defendants to hijack legitimate vendor payments.

The investigation was conducted as a part of President Obama's Financial Fraud Enforcement Task Force by the United States Secret Service; Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation Division; United States Postal Service; U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement; and West Virginia Commission on Special Investigations. The investigation was assisted by other federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies in North Carolina and Minnesota, including the North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation, the Minnesota Financial Crimes Task Force, and the Minneapolis, Edina, and Elk River Police Departments. Assistant United States Attorney Susan M. Robinson is handling the prosecution.

President Obama established the interagency Financial Fraud Enforcement Task Force to wage an aggressive, coordinated, and proactive effort to investigate and prosecute financial crimes. The task force includes representatives from a broad range of federal agencies, regulatory authorities, inspectors general, and state and local law enforcement agencies who, working together, bring to bear a powerful array of criminal and civil enforcement resources. The task force is working to improve efforts across the federal executive branch, and with state and local partners, to investigate and prosecute significant financial crimes, ensure just and effective punishment for those who perpetrate financial crimes, combat discrimination in the lending and financial markets, and recover proceeds for victims of financial crimes.

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