

Making Social Protection Work in Uganda:

*The Role of Members of Parliament in
extending the Senior Citizens Grant to
more districts*

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Introduction

- MPs obligation –
 - ✓ uphold citizen's rights
 - ✓ Hold Government accountable to fulfill policy and manifesto commitments

MPs do this through their functions:

- *Representative*
- *Oversight*
- *Allocation of Resources*
- *Legislative*

Key Recommendations by political leaders- Study Tour Delegations to South Africa, Lesotho, Brazil

- **National coverage:** GoU should prioritize Direct Income Supports to older persons and commits to the national scale up SCG
- **Financing:** GoU should identify sustainable sources of funding for the SCG
- Establish a **Parliamentary Forum on Social Protection**

Mandate of the Parliamentary Forum on Social Protection

- Advocacy for the expansion and allocation of resources for Social Protection- in the short term, specifically extension of Senior Citizen Grants
- Oversight and monitoring implementation for efficiency and betterment of services to beneficiaries
- Sponsor the review/ enactment of SP legislation and policies –e.g. basic income security for Children, PWDs or Senior Citizens

Specific Terms of Reference of the Parliamentary Forum on Social Protection

- Advocate and engage government to implement their commitment to SP as stipulated in the NDP and Manifesto by appropriating resources
- Review guidelines and provide specific oversight in the implementation of the Programme-including protecting beneficiary rights.
- Sponsor the review/ enactment of SP legislation and policies
- Make recommendations toward addressing gaps in the policy implementation

Specific Terms of Reference of the Parliamentary Forum on Social Protection

- Actively engage with the MGLSD and all stakeholders in the development of Uganda's SP vision and policy
- Mobilise other MPs to rally around Social Protection including provide information about SP to colleagues.
- Engage with the media and spearhead campaigns to mobilise the public on Social Protection
- Forster coordination, mobilise and rally CSOs around social protection including Faith based organisations for improved coordination.

Executive Committee of the Parliamentary Forum on Social Protection

- Chairperson: Hon. Flavia Kabahenda Rwabuhoro
 - Vice Chairperson: Hon. Alex Ndezi
 - Secretary: Hon. Sarah Lanyero
 - Treasurer : Hon. Jacob Opolot
 - Publicity : Hon. Harriet Ntabaazi
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- Northern Regional Representative: Hon Stanley Omwonya
 - Eastern Regional Representative: Hon. Ongalo Obote
 - Western Regional Representative: Hon. Elizabeth Karungi
 - Central Regional Representative: Hon. Anifa Bangirana Kawooya

Tentative list of specific activities

- Organise forums to communicate and share information and discuss with stakeholders
- Oversight and Monitoring through field visits, interviews with beneficiaries & CDOs, identify problems and recommend action
- Review of the SP legal framework of peers in the region such as South Africa, Lesotho, Kenya as well as in other countries such as Brazil.
- Members of the PFSP can:
 - make personal statements on the floor of parliament
 - prepare specific reports to the Committee on MGLSD
 - sponsor the review/ enactment of SP legislation and policies

National Roll out of the SCG

- The Sessional Committee on GLSD has strongly recommended that Government makes provision for
 - **UGX 36 bn** in 2012/13 for 24 new districts
- The Standing Committee on Budget has adopted this recommendation
- Role of MPs – put pressure on Government to adopt these recommendations

Conclusion

- The SCG is a starting point in the development of a comprehensive social protection system that ensures inclusive growth and socio-economic transformation for all our people
- It demonstrates that our Government is committed to ensuring that our most vulnerable citizens are not left behind as we transition into a Middle Income Country.

Conclusion

- The provision of SCGs through SAGE is a key opportunity for **achieving NDP objectives and commitments in the NRM Manifesto** and represents *a new and innovative strategy through which the Government of Uganda can directly reach* its most vulnerable citizens.
- Without Direct Income support, there will remain a section of Uganda's population who are disconnected from Uganda's growth.

SCG-Our legacy for Uganda @ 50

- As Uganda Celebrates 50 years of Independence, the national roll out of Senior Citizens Grants would represent a remarkable **LEGACY** for the Government of Uganda, the NRM and all our people, for recognising the important role that Senior Citizens have played towards the struggle for independence, nation building, and for raising their families.