



THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

MINISTRY OF GENDER, LABOUR AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

STATEMENT TO HON MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT AND CABINET MINISTERS ON THEIR OVERSIGHT VISIT OF THE SOCIAL ASSISTANCE GRANTS FOR EMPOWERMENT (SAGE) PROGRAMME IN KIBOGA DISTRICT

**Hon. PEACE MUTUZO
MINISTER OF GENDER, LABOUR AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT**

29TH MAY 2018

**The Rt. Hon. Prime Minister & Chief Visitor today,
Cabinet Ministers,
Members of Parliament,
LCV Chairperson, & Members of Council, Kiboga District,
The Resident District Commissioner,
The CAO and all Heads of departments, Kiboga district,
Staff of the Ministry of Gender, Labour & Social Development,
The Media,
Ladies & Gentlemen,**

A word of Welcome

Rt. Hon. Prime Minister, Hon. Members, Ladies and Gentlemen, allow me on behalf of the Ministry of Gender, Labour & Social Development, to start by warmly welcoming you to this event this morning.

I know how busy all of you are with different aspects of Government work. Your coming shows the importance that you attach to the SAGE Programme. I would like to thank the Parliamentary Forum on Social Protection for initiating this visit.

I can assure you Rt. Hon. Prime Minister and Hon. Members that by the end of the day, you will appreciate yourselves for a time well spent coming out to visit this Programme because of what you will see.

You will interact with the district local government leaders who are our partners in implementing this Programme; visit the pay points to see how older persons are paid. We will also visit a few beneficiaries at their homes for you to see the impact that this Programme is making in the lives of older persons.

The Impacts that you will see here in Kiboga is what you would see in any of the districts where the Programme is currently implemented.

Success of the Programme

Rt. Hon. Prime Minister, Ladies and Gentlemen, I do not want to belabour the impact of the SAGE Programme. You will be able to see this first hand and to hear from the district leaders and the beneficiaries about the impacts that this Programme is making.

What I would like to do is to underscore the fact that because of the impacts that this Programme is making, it has become a Programme of interest to the various stakeholders. Older persons all over the country are calling for the Programme to be rolled to cover all of them. Colleagues in Parliament, you recall that Parliament has debated and made a resolution for this Programme to be rolled out to the country. Cabinet has also debated and discussed the roll out of this Programme.

Currently, 151,178 beneficiaries are receiving the SAGE grants in 47 districts of; Abim, Agago, Amudat, Kiboga, Kyankwanzi, Moroto, Napak, Nakapiripirit, Yumbe, Kyegegwa, Kyenjojo. The other districts are Kaberamaido, Katakwi, Kole, Apac, Nebbi, Zombo, Kaabong, Abim, Kotido, Koboko, Gulu, Pader, Lamwo, Amolatar, Pallisa, Amuria, Kween, Namayingo, Mayuge, Kamuli, Kayunga, Nakasongola, Kibaale, Kisoro, Bundibugyo, Kitgum, Nakaseke, Kabale, Bugiri, Amuru, Omoro, Pakwach, Rubanda, Rukiga, Kagadi, Kakumiro and Butebo.

Way forward: Roll out

Rt. Hon. Prime Minister, Hon. Members, Ladies & Gentlemen, what my Ministry is doing at the moment is to manage between the high demand and the fiscal capacity of Government to implement a national roll out.

My ministry has done analysis and presented different roll out options to the Government. Based on this, the ministry recommended extending the programme to older persons over 80 years in the new districts starting in FY 2018/19. Thereafter, eligibility age could be reduced to reach 527,805 older

persons above 75 years in FY 2022/23; and 1,334,443 older persons over 65 years in 2026/27.

The option would bring on board 204,771 new beneficiaries and increase the coverage of SAGE to 358,420 older persons. The cost of this rollout proposal including transfers, delivery fees, enrolment and other SAGE operational costs will total UGX 142.46 billion in 2018/19.

Based on the current GoU allocation of UGX 32.88 billion and committed Development Partner funding, an additional UGX 54.03 billion is required to finance SAGE rollout if it is to start in FY 2018/19. It would then require UGX 7.56 billion in FY2019/20 and UGX 48.65 billion in 2020/21 to take over funding fully from Development Partner in line with the current MoU.

Cabinet and Parliament resolutions were to roll out the Programme to all older persons of 65 years and above costing shs.373.46billion.

Negotiated Funding

Rt. Hon. Prime Minister, Hon. Members, the existing roll out plan negotiated between Government and the Development partners in 2016. Government agreed to put aside Shs 149 billion over the 5 years as follows:

- FY 2015/16- Shs. 9 billion;
- FY 2016/17-Shs.17.59 billion;
- FY 2017/18- 29.15 billion
- FY 2018/19-40.34 billion and
- FY 2019/20-52.92 billion

The development partners on their part committed GBP 57 million and Euro 12 million by DFID and Irish Aid respectively.

In the FY2017/18, the Government of Uganda's MoU counterpart funding commitment of Shs 29.15 billion was not met due to lack of resources. Only Shs17.5 billion was voted. This left a funding deficit of Shs 11.65 billion.

Parliament however recently approved a supplementary budget to cover this gap. My ministry is still awaiting this release from the Ministry of Finance, Planning & Economic Development.

My Ministry requests to you Rt. Hon. Prime Minister and Hon. Members:

- We request you the Hon. Members to support national roll out and ensure that money is found to enable the roll out
- To ensure that Government meets its part of the MoU with development partners by providing and releasing 100 per cent of its commitment.

I thank you for listening

FOR GOD AND MY COUNTRY