



PRESS RELEASE

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THREE DISTRICTS RECEIVE FIRST OLDER PERSONS' CASH GRANTS

As SAGE Rolls Out in Kiboga, Kaberamaido & Kyenjojo

Kampala, September 2, 2011: Older persons in Kiboga, Kaberamaido and Kyenjojo districts today received the first payments of what will be a monthly Senior Citizens Grants (SCG) under the Social Assistance Grants for Empowerment (SAGE) scheme.

Speaking at the ceremony to witness the cash transfers today at Kibiga Sub-county, Kiboga district, the Minister of Gender Labour & Social Development, Syda Bbumba said: “With these regular and predictable incomes, vulnerable citizens will be able to afford life basic needs and will be empowered to take charge of their own well-being thus actively participating in their own welfare and contributing to their community.”

She said the grants will further enable the poorest and most vulnerable in society to access government programmes, participate in and contribute to Uganda’s social and economic transformation and, ultimately live lives of security and dignity.

The cash grants were delivered by MTN Mobile Money.

MTN Uganda CEO, Themba Khumalo said, “MTN is pleased at this opportunity to partner with the Ministry of Gender, Labour & Social Development through the provision of our Mobile Money platform to facilitate the disbursement of funds to the SAGE beneficiaries. MTN is committed to continue investing in leading edge technology solutions to better the quality of life for Ugandans.”

Speaking in Bululu Sub-county, Kaberamaido District, Sulaiman Madada, Minister of State for Disability & Elderly Affairs said, “For several months, we have all waited to see our first cash transfer going out and it gives me great pleasure that today we are here to witness just that.”

SAGE is a component of the Expanding Social Protection Programme (ESP) supported by the Department for International Development (DFID), Irish Aid, and UNICEF. It is being piloted in 14 districts of Apac, Kole, Amudat, Moroto, Nakapiripirit, Napak, Kiboga, Kyankwanzi, Katakwi, Kyegegwa, Kaberamaido, Kyenjojo, Nebbi and Zombo.

Over the next 5 years, the programme will give Ugx23, 000 (US\$8) every month to over 600,000 people under two types of grants; the Senior Citizens Grants (for people 65 years and above; 60 and above for Karomoja) and the Vulnerable Families Support Grants (for households with low labour capacity and high dependency). This amount will however be revised to cater for inflation in order to keep the value of the amount.

As a pilot project, SAGE is aimed at generating evidence and testing mechanisms, principles to support the formulation of the social protection policy framework in Uganda so that social protection is expanded to the whole country.

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