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**National Dialogue**  
**Inclusive Socio-Economic Transformation for Uganda: *The Role of Social Protection***

19 April 2012 | 8 am to 1 pm | Protea Hotel, Kampala

The Expanding Social Protection Programme in the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development and the Economic Policy Research Centre is hosting a national dialogue on ***Inclusive Socio-Economic Transformation for Uganda: The Role of Social Protection***, to take place on Thursday April 19, 2012. The event will bring together poverty analysts, social policy experts and practitioners from across Uganda and across the globe to discuss Uganda's remarkable economic and social achievements to date, the challenges which must now be addressed, and the role of social protection in supporting Uganda to realise its objectives of achieving growth with equity and attaining middle income country status.

The key note address will be delivered by **Prof. Ezra Suruma**, Senior Presidential Advisor on Finance and Economic Planning, with presentations on the latest poverty and vulnerability analyses by **Dr. Sarah Ssewanyana**, Executive Director, EPRC. New perspectives on inequality of opportunity in Uganda will be presented by **Prof. John Roemer** of Yale University (US) and **Hon. Flavia Rwabuhoro**, Woman MP for Kyegegwa District will present a perspective on the role of direct income support in enhancing opportunities for Uganda's vulnerable citizens. Discussants include **Dr. Albert Musisi**, Acting Commissioner, Economic Development Policy and Research Department, MoFPED and **Dr. Francis Runumi**, Commissioner, Planning Department, Ministry of Health.

**Some reflections:**

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**What are the chances that a Ugandan child, living with illiterate, poor grandparents in a rural community in Busoga will survive to their 5th birthday, receive the nutrition and health care necessary to develop their full physical and intellectual potential, afford the materials and uniform to complete primary and secondary education and acquire the skills to effectively contribute to Uganda's growing labour market?**

**For the past two decades, Uganda's economy has undergone phenomenal transformation.** GDP has grown at over 7 per cent annually whilst the incidence of poverty has more than halved, from 56 per cent in 1992 to 24.5 per cent in 2009/2010. No matter how it is measured, it is clear that there have been improvements in well-being for many of Uganda's citizens. With consistent, strong economic growth and the discovery of oil, it is clear that Uganda's ambition to become a middle income country is within sight!

**However, to what extent are *all* Ugandans able to contribute to, and benefit from this growth and transformation?** New analysis undertaken by the Expanding Social Protection Programme within the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development and the Economic Policy Research Centre reveals that Uganda's consistent economic and social gains over the past two decades have not been experienced evenly. In particular, inequality of income, opportunity and access to basic services combined with high levels of vulnerability throughout many Ugandan's lives present challenges for the inclusiveness of Uganda's social and economic transformation, both now and for future generations.

**Emerging evidence from the Senior Citizens Grants and Vulnerable Family Grants being implemented by the Expanding Social Protection Programme combined with the large body of global evidence points to a key role for Direct Income Support – small, regular payments of money providing income security to vulnerable citizens – in redressing these imbalances and supporting all Ugandans to contribute to Uganda's transformation.**

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