



Republic of Uganda

**MINISTRY OF GENDER, LABOUR AND SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT**

MEDIA STATEMENT BY

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ON THE

INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

3RD DECEMBER 2022

DELIVERED AT

THE UGANDA MEDIA CENTER, KAMPALA

29TH NOVEMBER 2022

- Gallant members of the Press
- Fellow countrymen and women,

Uganda will be joining the rest of the world in observing the International Day of Persons with Disabilities. The Day has been observed every year on 3rd December since the year 1992 when it was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly.

Commemoration of the International Day for Persons with Disabilities is one of the advocacy activities the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development undertakes in fulfilment of its Constitutional mandate as provided for under the National Objectives which obliges both Society and the State to recognize the rights of Persons with Disabilities to respect and human dignity.

Through this Day, we celebrate and acknowledge the capabilities of Persons with Disabilities in contributing towards the development of our Country besides creating awareness on the importance of promoting equality and full participation of Persons with Disabilities in social life.

This year's National Celebration will be held on Saturday, 3rd December at Okole Primary School Grounds in Kole District under the theme: **“Leadership and Mindset Change: A Tool for Inclusive Development”**.

Her Excellency the Vice President of the Republic of Uganda is expected to preside over, as Chief Guest.

Ladies and Gentlemen, the theme for this year's commemoration has been strategically selected to strengthen and amplify awareness about the abilities of Persons with disabilities and encourage leaders at all levels to support Persons with Disabilities to harness their potentials.

The theme further urges us leaders to stop stereotypes and misconceptions about disability and support efforts towards an inclusive society for all.

The theme is directly in line with our National efforts of steering all citizens towards wealth creation through inclusive planning and implementation of programmes, the Sustainable Development Goals which emphasize **“Leaving No One Behind”** and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities which Uganda ratified in 2008.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Persons with Disabilities are people who have a substantial functional limitation and do with 'a lot of difficulty' or 'cannot do at all' daily life activities as a result of an impairment. This limitation or difficulty is manifested in the aspects of economic, social, political, cultural, and environment aspects.

According to Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS 2016), for the population aged 2 years and above the disability prevalence rate was 12.4% which translates to 6,466,798 million people. Of these, 49.26% and 50.74% are males and females respectively. The census estimated that the highest forms of disability were: difficulty seeing (6.5% of the population), difficulty remembering (5.4%); difficulty walking (4.5%); and difficulty hearing (3.1%).

Results from the previous commemoration:

It's important to recognize that the International Day of Persons with Disabilities is held not as a formality but an avenue through which to identify critical needs and draw solutions.

Ladies and Gentlemen, allow me enumerate some of the results we have registered from the previous celebrations.

- a) Persons with Disabilities requested to be allocated specific ceiling under the Parish Development Model (PDM) programme as affirmative action. To this end, Persons with Disabilities were allocated 10% of the PDM funds and they can now access these funds through their PDM SACCOs.
- b) Persons with Disabilities also requested for an increment in the allocation for the National Special Grant for Persons with Disabilities to at least Ugx 17 billion to cater for the 31 Local Governments that had not benefited from the grant. I am pleased to report that the budget for the programme was enhanced from Ugx 9.6 billion to Ugx16.6 billion in the FY2022/23 and a total of 2,656 PWD groups will benefit from the Programme thereby reaching to over 16,000 Households countrywide. I want to extend special appreciation to President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni for allowing the increment and the Honourable Members of Parliament for their consideration.
- c) To enhance transparency under National Special Grant for Persons with Disabilities, a list of disbursements for the grant for each Local Government since FY2019/20 was dispatched to all Members of Parliament. This is intended to facilitate monitoring and oversight.

d) Furthermore, previously the programme was demand driven which meant that we were acting on first come first serve basis however, starting this Financial Year, every Local Government has been allocated an Indicative Planning Figure (IPF) to ensure equity in allocation of grants.

e) Last year's National Disability Symposium drew alot of success with stakeholders supporting a reasonable number of Persons with Disabilities in different aspects. Going forward, the National Disability Forum has been adopted as a precursor event for stakeholders to brainstorm, identify and discuss strategies that can improve the wellbeing of Persons with Disabilities.

The commemoration last year left out many Persons with Disabilities due to its scientific nature. This year, the commemoration in Kole District will involve all stakeholders although with strict observance of the COVID-19 and Ebola Standard Operating Procedures.

f) Further still, Government pledged to revise the National Policy on Disability 2006 to align it to new developments that have taken place in the areas of legal, policy and programmes since 2006. I am glad to report that the Revised National



Policy on Persons with Disabilities 2022 will be launched during the National commemorations.

As I conclude, some of the activities for this years' commemoration will include:

- a) A National Disability symposium which will be held in Kole on the 2nd November 2022.
- b) Health camp outreaches conducted in Kole district, including eye care, medical referrals, assessment for assistive devices, distribution of assistive devices and other services.
- c) Provision of National Special Grant for Persons with Disabilities Grants to beneficiaries in Kole District.
- d) Launch of the Revised National Policy on Persons with Disabilities
- e) Launch of the Audio-Visual Version of the Persons with Disabilities Act 2020.

In putting this Day together, my Ministry is working together with various Ministries, Departments and Agencies, Civil Society and Development Partners, who I want to appreciate for all the support rendered so far.

Lastly, I appeal to all Ugandans including the media fraternity to support in promoting meaningful mindset change towards Persons with Disabilities and facilitate their inclusion in development. My Ministry commits to aim higher in as far as the welfare of Persons with Disabilities is concerned.

I wish you all fruitful celebrations.



Asamo Hellen Grace (MP)

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR DISABILITY AFFAIRS,
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