



THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

STATEMENT BY

**THE MINISTER OF GENDER, LABOUR AND SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT, IN CHARGE ELDERLY AFFAIRS**

HON. DOMINIC MAFWABI GIDUDU (MP)

ON

**THE OCCASION TO COMMEMORATE THE INTERNATIONAL DAY
OF OLDER PERONS, 2022**

UGANDA MEDIA CENTRE, KAMPALA

28TH SEPTEMBER 2022

- **Distinguished Members of the Press,**
- **Fellow Countrymen and Women,**

I am delighted to address you today on the forthcoming commemoration of the International Day of Older Persons.

Every year on 1st October, the world comes together to observe the International Day of Older Persons to specifically raise awareness on the needs and concerns of Older Persons.

It's a Day to celebrate ageing and challenge negative stereotypes about older persons. It's a time dedicated for everyone to join hands in breaking ageism that links old age to vulnerability.

The International Day of Older Persons was observed for the first time throughout the world on 1st October 1991 and Uganda started commemorating the Day in 1999.

According to the UN report of 2017, between 2017 and 2050, the number of older persons in the developing world is predicted to increase from 652 Million to 2.1 Billion. The same UN report projects that by 2047, there will be more older persons than children.

Uganda is already on the path to this trajectory as evidenced by the increase in number of older persons from 1.4m in 2015 to 2.2m in 2022 as per the UBOS projections. This increase in population is as a result of improved life expectancy among the population resulting from improved health seeking behavior, advancement in health technology among others.

The Government remains committed and prepared to address the concerns and needs that come with increased older persons' population, by eliminating all forms of neglect, abuse and violence as provided for under Article 32 of the Constitution, while promoting recognition of their contribution to national development.

Fellow citizens, I take the honour to inform you that the celebrations this year will be marked under the theme: *"Resilience of Older Persons to cope in a changing World"*. The theme was derived from the fact that the COVID-19 pandemic worsened existing inequalities among older persons within the past three years. This impacted negatively on the social-economic, and condition of older persons hence the need for resilience building.

The Venue for this year's national celebrations is Nebbi Town Secondary School in Nebbi Municipality and His Excellency the President of the Republic of Uganda is expected to preside over the celebrations, as a Chief Guest.

As we celebrate the Day, I am glad to report that, Government revised the Parish Development Model Guidelines to include 10% allocation for Older Person's enterprises which will enable them to be active in the money economy. The inclusion under the Parish Development Model has already been completed awaiting funds to start transacting business.

You will recall that last year, Older Persons requested to have the target age for Senior Citizens Grant beneficiaries to be lowered. I am glad to report that although lowering of the minimum age was not possible due to limited resources, Government has initiated the Special Enterprise Grant

for Older Persons (SEGOP) to target older persons aged 60-79 years who are not receiving SAGE to start income generating enterprises to support their households. This Financial Year, Government has allocated Shs 5Bn to kick start the programme. This programme will be launched during the National Celebrations.

To further affirm Government's commitment towards improving older persons' welfare, Shs121,264Billion has been allocated to sustain the SAGE Programme following the expiry of the funding agreement with Development Partners. This means that Government has fully taken over funding of the Senior Citizens Grants which gives older persons monthly stipend of Shs 25,000/=.

The National Council for Older Persons' budget has also been increased from Uganda shillings 700 Million to Uganda shillings 2.4 Billion to strengthen monitoring of government programmes for maximum inclusion of Older Persons as requested last year. I am glad to report that modalities are underway to ensure that the National Council transfers part of these funds to the District and City Councils in the near future to facilitate monitoring and compliance with the policy framework for Older persons.

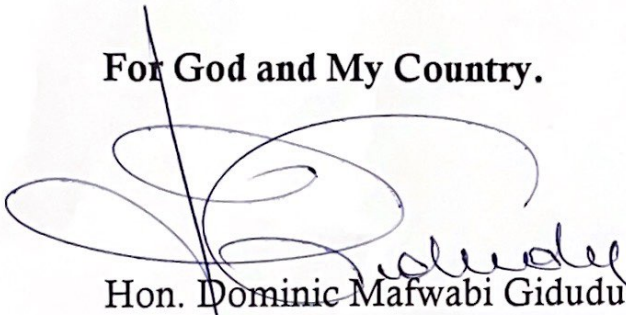
During last year's commemoration, HE the President directed the Ministry to develop Guidelines on Health and Ageing in a bid to enhance active ageing among older persons. I am glad to report that the Guidelines are now ready for launch on 1st October, 2022.

As I conclude, I want to commend all partners who have supported this year's commemoration especially Nebbi District Local Government that accepted to host this year's National celebration.

I urge all Ugandans who will not join us in Nebbi, to celebrate locally or to follow the proceedings of the main event through the media.

I thank you.

For God and My Country.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Dominic Mafwabi Gidudu', is written over a faint, circular official stamp.

Hon. Dominic Mafwabi Gidudu (MP)

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DEVELOPMENT, IN CHARGE ELDERLY AFFAIRS.**