



PRESS STATEMENT

BY

Hon. Sarah Mateke Nyirabashitsi

MINISTER OF STATE FOR YOUTH AND CHILDREN
AFFAIRS

ON THE

COMMEMORATION OF INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY

2022

Boate

24TH AUGUST 2022

VENUE: MEDIA CENTRE, KAMPALA

Countrymen and women,

Members of the Media Fraternity

On Friday, 26th August, Uganda will join the rest of the world in commemorating the International Youth Day (IYD). The day is commemorated every year on the 12th of August since it was proposed at the 1st World Conference of Ministers responsible for youth that took place in Lisbon-Portugal between 8th -12th August 1998 and approved in 1999 under Resolution 54/120 of the 54th UN General Assembly.

Recognising the youth population bulge across the globe and the inherent capacity of youth to play a crucial role in the social economic and political transformation of society, the Assembly further recommended organization of information or activities to support the day as a way of promoting awareness of the World Programme of Action for Youth.

Whereas the theme for International Youth Day Celebrations 2022 as proposed by the United Nations is “**Intergenerational Solidarity: Creating a World for all Ages**”, Uganda has modified the theme of International Youth Day 2022 to: “**Intergenerational Solidarity: The Role of Youth in the Implementation of Parish Development Model**”.

The objective of the theme for this year’s International Youth Day is to raise awareness of the importance of all generations in achieving holistic development and to highlight the key roles youth play in the implementation of national programmes.

The Parish Development Model (PDM), aims at uplifting 17.5 million Ugandans in 3.5 million households out of poverty through the total transformation of the subsistence households into the money economy. PDM is expected to stimulate job creation for Ugandans including youth who are adversely affected by unemployment.

It’s important to note that 23% of Uganda’s population of over 46 million is comprised of youth between the ages of 18 to 30 years. While this could be a blessing, it poses a serious development challenge for the country.

Successful implementation of PDM therefore requires intentional and deliberate strategic involvement of the youth for the program success given their numerical strength as we harness the demographic dividend.

The call from the youth has been for a deliberate allocation to be set aside for them in the PDM, so that they are not marginalized or left behind. This I can confirm as the Minister responsible for the pillar of community Mobilisation and Mindset Change in PDM that 30% allocation has been set aside for the benefit of youth. The youth will only require to be trained to understand the PDM and how it works and to know their roles and responsibilities.

THE ROLE OF YOUTH IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PARISH DEVELOPMENT MODEL

Premised on seven major Pillars namely; Production, Storage, Processing and Marketing; Infrastructure and Economic Services; Financial Inclusion; Social Services; Mindset change and cross cutting issues (Gender, environment, Disability etc); Parish Based Management Information System; Governance and Administration, the Parish Development Model is the **last mile strategy for service delivery by Government of Uganda for improving incomes and welfare of all Ugandans at the household level.** It seeks to elevate 17.5 million Ugandans from poverty by creating employment for especially youth who are more adversely affected by unemployment.

The youth must pledge and position themselves to play an incredible role in the implementation of PDM including:

1. Engagement in the PDM and seeking beneficial information that can be relayed to all the young people for uptake;
2. Youth district leader's engagement in mindset change programmes to prepare the youth for PDM;

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3. Encouraging fellow youth to embrace PDM to improve their quality of life by engaging in on-farm and off-farm income generating activities but also tapping into opportunities along the various levels of the value chain in agricultural sector;
4. Sensitizing the public, educating communities and other stakeholders for buy-in, collaboration and networking;
5. Strengthen implementation capacity for youth;
6. Leverage the power of ICT;
7. Innovating and creating new methods and ways of adding value and effectively taking advantage of Agro-industrialization;
8. Spearheading the formation of SACCOs;
9. Integrating Sexual Reproductive Health and Family Planning, financial literacy and good governance in all youth interventions.

The Ministry is committed to tapping and enhancing the youth potential to enable them participate and engage in the implementation process of the Parish Development Model by harnessing opportunities that are embedded in intergenerational solidarity.

OTHER PROGRAMMES AND INTERVENTIONS

The Ministry has developed and designed a number of programmes aimed at empowering youth and ensuring their participation in national development processes. Among these, include the following:

- Reviewed the National Implementation Action Plan on Youth;
- Developed the out of school youth sexuality Education guidelines;
- Designed a National Service Scheme for Uganda;

- Inducted Youth Council leaders in the various regions;
- Contributed to the finalization of National School Health Policy;
- Disseminating the National Coordination mechanism for Youth programmes;
- Reviewed the National Strategy to End Teenage Pregnancy and Early Marriages in Uganda;
- Working in partnership to support interventions aimed at giving pregnant girls a second chance;
- Preparing the masses to understand, prepare and embrace the PDM approach to grassroot empowerment.
- Working towards consolidating the gains of the Youth Livelihood programme, Youth venture Capital Fund, Uganda Women Enterprise Programme, Quality Apprenticeship and volunteerism, Songhai Green Incubation Sector (Jua- Kali) business. To mention but a few

I would like to take this opportunity to invite you all to the National Celebrations at Kaunda grounds, Gulu City, in Gulu District; but at the same time encourage you to commemorate the Day at various levels of local government.

I wish you all happy International Youth Day celebrations.

FOR GOD AND MY COUNTRY

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