



PRESS STATEMENT

DELIVERED BY THE

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

ABOUT THE

**AMENDMENT OF THE WORKERS COMPENSATION
ACT CAP 225**

**AT THE
UGANDA MEDIA CENTRE, KAMPALA**

25TH JANUARY 2023

Distinguished Members of the Press,

We converge here this morning to brief you on the proposed principles for the amendment of the Workers Compensation Act Cap 225. This act was enacted on 15th September 2000 with the sole purpose to provide for procedures for management of injuries and compensation for injuries arising in the course of employment.

Specifically, the Act provides for among others;

- i. treatment and provision of medical aid to the injured workers;
- ii. compensation for the losses of earning capacity arising from an injury or scheduled disease suffered or contracted during the course of employment;
- iii. notification of accidents which should be made to the Labour Officers;
- iv. payment of compensation to dependants of deceased workers who die in the course of employment.

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The proposal to amend the Workers Compensation Act Cap 225 arises from the need to address gaps and delay that affect implementation of the Act.

The proposed principles to amend the Act aim at streamlining matters related to assessment, compensation and enforcement of awards to workers for injuries suffered and scheduled diseases incurred during the course of their employment among others.

Dear members of the press, it is important to note that failure to address the issues affecting effective management of the processes for compensation of workers for the injuries incurred in the course of employment, will mean that the country will continue to suffer; rising costs of litigations, increased labour complaints and disputes related to workers compensation, increased occupational injuries, diseases and deaths; increased socio-economic vulnerabilities; and reduced quality of work and low labour productivity.

The Workers Compensation Act Cap 225, if amended will improve the assessment, compensation and enforcement of awards to workers for injuries suffered and scheduled diseases incurred during the course of their employment. This will go a long way in

protecting the rights of workers and promotion of industrial harmony.

The proposed principles for amendment of the Workers Compensation Act Cap 225 were approved by Cabinet on 23rd January 2022 and we await instructions for the drafting of the bill. Once the bill has been finalized, it will be presented to Cabinet for approval before it is sent to Parliament for debate. At an opportune time it shall be availed to the public for consultations.

The Amendment of this Act is quite timely at a time where the protection and promotion of the rights of the workers is a key aspiration of the Uganda Vision 2040, National Development Plan III (2020/21 - 2024/25), the 2021-2026 National Resistance Movement (NRM) Manifesto and the National Employment Policy for Uganda, 2011.

As I conclude, I want to urge all of you to take note of the provisions of this Act and to play your part in ensuring that all work injuries are reported to the Labour offices in time and the injured persons are provided adequate treatment and

compensated for any injuries incurred in the course of
employment as required by the law.

Cot Okello Eugene Macozhwoyo Mos/Leik
Johnny

FOR GOD AND MY COUNTRY