



THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

STATEMENT BY THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR YOUTH AND CHILDREN AFFAIRS – HON. FLORENCE NAKIWALA KIYINGI ON THE EVE OF INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY CELEBRATIONS ON 11TH AUGUST, 2020

Fellow countrymen and women, tomorrow 12th August, Uganda will join the rest of the United Nations (UN) Fraternity in marking and celebrating the International Youth Day.

International Youth Day avails opportunity to State Parties to take stock of achievements in implementation of programs/policies and strategic interventions aimed at empowering the young people. The day also gives the world an opportunity to appreciate the potential of the youth, their achievements and plans to better engage them to progressively take action for their personal and country's development.

This year, there will be no physical National Celebrations due to the COVID - 19 pandemic, however H. E President Yoweri Museveni will

deliver an address that will be broadcast live on all television networks, radio stations and online.

The address will start at 11;00am and I implore everybody to tune in.

The theme for this year's celebration is "**Youth Engagement for Global Action**".

This theme was chosen by the UN and partners to enable us reflect on the need to engage young people in addressing the global challenges in an increasingly polarized world.

Ladies and gentlemen, the Government of Uganda has put in place structures and Programmes to boost the engagement and participation of young people in Uganda. The National Youth Council provides an elaborate structure from village to national levels to enhance participation in social, economic and political spheres.

The Government of Uganda is committed to ensure the youth fully and effectively participate in decision making processes and in shaping the lives of the communities they live in. The youth are represented in the local government structures as well as the Parliament of Uganda. Youth have been engaged in economic and social programs such as Youth Livelihood Program, Youth Venture Capital Fund, Green Jobs and Fair Markets Programme, Youth

Innovation Fund, Uganda Skills Development Project, Operation Wealth Creation, and Talent Support Schemes among others.

Cumulatively, the **Youth Livelihood Programme** has **disbursed a total of Shs162 billion** towards **20,421 youth projects** since inception in 2014. The funds have **benefited 244,698 youth**, of whom **46% are female**.

Under the **Youth Venture Capital Fund (YVCF)**, **45,367 youth entrepreneurs** have accessed the fund that has **revolved from the initial Shs. 25bn to Shs. 146bn** cumulatively since 2012. The YVCF is a youth friendly loan facility provided to young entrepreneurs to improve their capital base and sustain their enterprises.

Meanwhile, the **Uganda Women Entrepreneurship Program (UWEP)** has cumulatively **disbursed Shs. 107 billion**, benefiting **11,256 projects** since inception. This has **benefited 139,825 women**.

Fellow Ugandans, enhancing engagement of youth in all areas of development creates mutual understanding and proper adoptability of policies, programs and processes and most importantly restores harmony and trust in public institutions, especially by the youth.

The role of young people in addressing global challenges such as COVID 19 pandemic, climate change effects is needed now more than ever. The vibrancy, innovativeness and population of the youth are a big asset in finding solutions to these challenges.

This year's International Youth Day should therefore give us opportunity to engage youth at:

- Local and community levels to use their energies to develop themselves and the society they live in;
- National level in formulation of laws, policies, and their implementation; and
- The global level in addressing challenges that confront humanity.

To celebrate this year's Youth Day, we have carried out various online activities, which includes the following;

- 1) Panel and on line discussions:
- 2) E- conferences of youth on topical issues;
- 3) Print media on stories for and by the young people:
- 4) Radio and Television talk shows:

- 5) Live streaming on social media and creating hash tags:
- 6) Deliberate engagement of youth, stakeholders and youth workers; and
- 7) Digital and scientific engagement in pre- event during youth week

Furthermore, tomorrow, H.E the President of the Republic of Uganda will launch **Youth4Business Innovation and Entrepreneurship Facility**. The facility is designed to spur impact-driven entrepreneurship and engage enterprises in tackling youth unemployment by leveraging innovations in selected economy sectors especially in the post COVID era. It complements already existing programs for youth such as Youth Livelihood program, youth Venture Capital fund and Talent support Schemes.

In conclusion, I urge every Ugandan and the youth to engage in all spheres so that they can effectively contribute towards self-growth, peace, tolerance and social cohesion. Youth engagement is a shared responsibility.

I call upon all of you to join the young people and listen to the statement of H.E, the President of the Republic of Uganda wherever you are.

Wishing you happy celebrations.

FOR GOD AND MY COUNTRY