



**PRESS STATEMENT**

**BY**

**AMONGI BETTY ONGOM (MP)**

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

**ON**

**THE IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS OF THE NATIONAL  
SOCIAL SECURITY FUND (AMENDMENT) ACT, 2021**

**DELIVERED AT THE MEDIA CENTRE,**

**WEDNESDAY, 5<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2022**

Fellow Ugandans,

The President of the Republic of Uganda, His Excellency General Yoweri Kaguta Museveni on 2<sup>nd</sup> January, 2022, assented to the NSSF (Amendment) Bill 2021 and the same accordingly became the NSSF (Amendment) Act, 2021.

I would like to congratulate members of the Fund and all workers of Uganda upon this milestone.

I extend my appreciation to the President for his guidance throughout the process of amending this Act, and for assenting to it in a timely manner, especially at a time when many workers are struggling to make ends meet due to effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

I would also like to extend my appreciation to my colleagues in Cabinet, the Speaker of Parliament, the Deputy Speaker, the Parliament Committee on Gender, Labour and Social Development, Members of Parliament, the First Parliamentary Counsel, National Organisation of Trade Unions, Central Organization of Free Trade Unions and the Federation of Uganda Employers who contributed to the fruition of this milestone.

As far as implementation of the Act is concerned, I would like to guide the members of the Fund and the country as follows:

- i. The NSSF (Amendment) Act shall come into force upon publication in the Uganda Gazette in the coming days. I will inform the country as soon as this critical action has been implemented.
- ii. The provision regarding midterm access to benefits by qualifying members of the Fund shall come into effect after I have issued a statutory instrument that will guide on the terms and conditions, and procedures for accessing benefits. I am required by the Act to issue this instrument and lay the same before Parliament for information within 60 DAYS AFTER publication of the Act in the Uganda

Gazette. My Ministry is in advanced stages of drafting Regulations. I am confident that we will meet the timelines mentioned in the Act

I have also received assurances that the Fund is ready to implement the NSSF Amendment Act once the requisite procedures I have mentioned above have been undertaken. My Ministry, as the supervising body of the Fund, will ensure that the Act is implemented to the letter.

For avoidance of doubt, only the following categories of members will be eligible for mid-term access to benefits and in the terms stated below:

- a. A member who is forty-five years of age and above and who has made contributions to the fund for at least ten years, is eligible to mid-term access to his or her benefits, of a sum not exceeding 20% of his or her accrued benefits.
- b. A Member who is a person with disability, is forty years of age and above and has made contributions to the fund for at least ten years, is eligible to mid-term access, of a sum of 50% of his or her accrued benefits.

Lastly, the Act provides immense opportunities to the Fund, the workers, and the entire country. For instance, to mention but a few;

- i. Expansion of the basic social security coverage in Uganda;
  - a. Every worker is now eligible to save with the Fund
  - b. Every Employer, as defined in the Act, is now obliged to contribute to the NSSF for their workers, irrespective of the number employed
  - c. Every worker can voluntarily save with the Fund, over and above the mandatory 15% contributions
- ii. Enhancement of adequacy of social security benefits

- a. The NSSF Board of Directors now has a mandate to offer more social security benefits in accordance with Geneva Convention 102 on Social Security (Minimum Standards)
  
- iii. Enabling product innovation to address the needs of a young population
  - a. The Fund will have the mandate to innovate and introduce more products as required by its members

I urge all workers to embrace these opportunities, join the Fund and save for their retirement or a rainy day that we all experience in our lifetime.

For God and My Country

Amongi Betty Ongom (MP)

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