



Press Statement

By

Hellen Asamo (MP),

**Minister of State for Gender, Labour and Social
Development (Disability Affairs) and also holding
position of the Minister of Gender, Labour and
Social Development**

on the

**Commemoration of the 2022 World Day Against
Child Labour**

at the

**Uganda Media Centre, Kampala, on Friday, 10th
June 2022 at 10:00am**

Distinguished Members of the Press,

1. It is my pleasure to address you about the commemoration of the 2022 World Day Against Child Labour. This year, the Global theme for the World Day Against Child Labour is: **“Universal Social Protection to End Child Labour”**.
2. The commemoration of this day brings to focus the global extent of Child Labour and the action and efforts needed to eliminate it. The day is also intended to serve as a catalyst for the growing worldwide movement against Child Labour.
3. According to Uganda National Child Labour Policy, 2006, Child Labour refers to work that is mentally, physically, socially and/morally dangerous and harmful to children. In addition, Child Labour is perceived as work or activities that interfere with children’s school attendance.
4. Child Labour remains an endemic global challenge. According to a joint report by the International Labour Organization and the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), at the beginning of 2020, 1 in 10 children aged 5 and over were involved in Child Labour worldwide – equating to an estimated 160 million children, or 63 million girls and 97 million boys. In Africa, the situation is not any better. ILO estimates that 92million children aged 5-17 years are involved in Child Labour in Africa.
5. In Uganda, incidences of Child Labour increased during the COVID-19 pandemic from 21% to 36% according to the Uganda National Household Survey 2019/2020. To make matters worse, even after schools were re-opened in January 2022, 1 in 10 school children did not report back to school, according to figures by the United Nations

Children's Fund(Unicef). Most likely, these children slipped into Child Labour.

6. Furthermore, analysis of the data before and after 20th March 2020 showed that 36 percent of the children aged 5-17 years engaged in Child Labour including household chores; an increase from 21 percent registered before 20th March 2020.
7. When the data is disaggregated by sub-region, Busoga and Bukedi had the highest proportion of children aged 5-17 years involved in Child Labour at 29% and 28% respectively. More children in the rural (31%) than urban (20%) areas were involved in Child Labour (with household chores inclusive).
8. However, I am glad to inform you that in recognition of the negative impacts of Child Labour, the Government is undertaking the following interventions to eradicate this scourge:-
 - i. Policy, Legal and Institutional Framework. The Ministry developed the National Child Labour Policy, 2006 and Employment Act, 2006 as principal legal frameworks to curb Child Labour;
 - ii. Universal Free Primary Education. The Universal Primary Education (UPE) policy provides for free primary education for all school going children. Primary school enrolment was at 8.8 million in 2017 and literacy rate is at 76%;
 - iii. Introduction of Wealth Creation programmes. Government has introduced and increased funding to wealth creation Programmes such as Operation Wealth Creation, the Parish Development Programme (PDM) and the Special Grants for the Elderly, among others. These programmes have laid a foundation for increased household incomes which will economically empower families

- ,drastically eradicate poverty and stop children from involving in Child Labour;
- iv. Stepping up Labour Inspection and Enforcement of Labour Standards to ensure compliance with laws against Child Labour ; and
 - v. Carrying out advocacy and awareness raising on the dangers and consequences of Child Labour.
9. This year's celebrations will be held at Bunyonyi Primary School Grounds in Kabarole District. The choice of Kabarole District is particularly instructive because Child Labour remains very prevalent in tea plantations in the Tooro sub-region with 15.4% of children in the Tooro sub-region involved in Child Labour. We will therefore use the commemorations to re-echo the call that children must not be employed in tea plantations.
10. Under normal circumstances, the celebrations would be open to all. However, due to containment measures imposed to prevent and control the spread of COVID-19, the celebrations will be limited to only invited guests.
11. I urge all invited guests to come to Kabarole District for the celebrations and request all Ugandans to follow these important celebrations through the media because for us to secure the future of our country, we must protect our children from Child Labour.
12. Finally, I urge you members of the press to use your platforms to advocate against Child Labour because employing children constrains Uganda's Vision 2040 agenda as it perpetrates a cycle of poverty by exposing children to harmful practices like drug abuse . The elimination of Child Labour is a collective effort that requires the participation of all.

I Thank you all. **For God and My Country.**



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10th / June / 2022