THE UGANDA PARLIAMENTARY FORUM ON SOCIAL PROTECTION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STATEMENT ON INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR OLDER PERSONS

KAMPALA, October 1, 2026 – Today, as Uganda joins the rest of the world to celebrate the International Day for Older Persons, the Uganda Parliamentary Forum on Social Protection (UPFSP) stands in solidarity with all our senior citizens. We embrace the national theme: **"Ageing with Dignity: Strengthening Care and Support Systems for Older Persons."**

As Social Protection Champions, we recognise that our older persons are the custodians of our history, wisdom, and values. However, they face growing vulnerabilities due to the gradual breakdown of traditional family safety nets, rising medical costs, and economic shocks. True dignity requires robust and comprehensive social protection system.

UPFSP highlights the following critical priorities to transform this year's theme into actionable justice:

- **Speedy Rollout of SAGE Reforms:** We commend the Cabinet's decision to **lower the SAGE eligibility age from 80 to 65 years** and **increase the monthly stipend from sh25,000 to Sh35,000**. We urge the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development to ensure immediate budgetary allocations so that no eligible older person is left behind.
- **Fast-tracking the National Health Insurance Scheme Bill;** With **majority of older Ugandans currently lacking health insurance**, we call upon Parliament and the Ministry of Health to fast-track the NHIS Bill that will open up access to quality and affordable health care for older persons based on the principle of cross subsidization.
- **Institutionalizing Geriatric Care:** We advocate for the deliberate training of healthcare workers in **geriatric care and** treatment and the establishment of older persons friendly care infrastructure in health facilities.

We remain committed to using our legislative, oversight, and budgetary powers to champion laws that safeguard the rights of older persons. We call upon all stakeholders, civil society, and the private sector to support efforts towards building a Uganda where ageing is not a source of vulnerability, but a period of comfort and dignity.

For God and My Country.

Emmanuel Ongiertho (MP)

For; Chairperson
The Uganda Parliamentary Forum on Social Protection (UPFSP)

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