

'36% of employees working long hours'

By Owen Wagabaza

The greatest causes of mortality are circulatory diseases (31%), work-related cancers (26%)

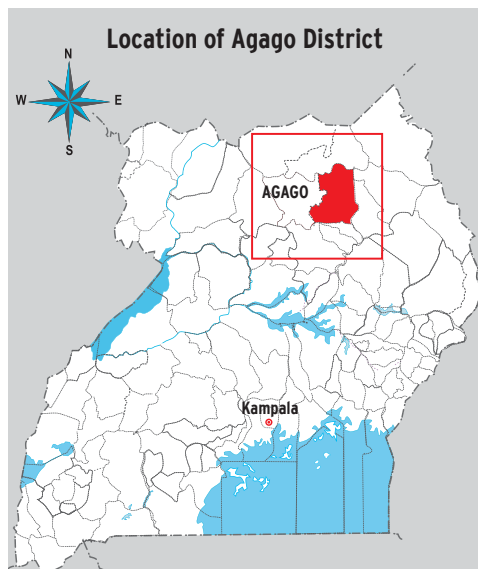
and respiratory diseases (17%), according to a report released by the International Labour Organisation (ILO).

The deaths are as a result of new or existing occupational risks that affect women more than men. These include modern working practices, population growth, increased digital connectivity and climate change.

The report says 36% of workers are working excessively long hours, meaning that more than 48 hours per week, mainly because of changes in the world of work, which has turned every moment into office time as technology advances.

It is such challenges and grievances that led ILO to come up with the International Labour Day, to advocate for better laws and policies.

Initially called the International Workers' Day, it started in Chicago in May 1886 and further spread to other parts of the world, Uganda being no exception. In 1884, the National



Federation of Organised Trades and Labour Assemblies decided to call for a general strike on May 1, 1884, in Chicago, USA, to enforce demands for employers to observe the eight-hour day. Prior to the strike, workers were working for more than 12 to 16 hours a day and in unsafe conditions. Because of the many

working hours, workers were getting sick and injured, yet with little help from the employers. During the protests, the Police, while trying to disperse the protestors, fired into the crowd, killing four people. In 1886, the second international Socialist Conference chose May 1, as the International Workers'

About Agago

Agago district is one of the newest districts established by the Act of Parliament. It started functioning in 2010. Prior to that, Agago was part of Pader district. The district is part of the Acholi sub-region, together with Amuru, Gulu, Kitgum, Lamwo, Nwoya and Pader.

In 1991, the national population census estimated the district population at 100,700. In 2002, the population of Agago was recorded at approximately 184,000. In 2014, during the national population census and household survey, the district had a population of at 227,792.

Day to commemorate the May 1, 1886, Haymarket affair. May 1 was formally recognised as an annual event at the International second congress in 1891.

2019 theme

Florence Nakiwala Kiyingi, the minister of state for children affairs, says the International Labour Day is commemorated in Uganda to honour the contribution workers make towards the development of the country.

"The day is also used

to create national and international awareness on the importance of promoting and protecting the rights of workers," Nakiwala says.

Each year's celebrations are designed to fit a selected theme and, this year's theme, is, *Promoting employment through enhanced public infrastructure development.*

According to Nakiwala, the theme draws from the fact that public investment in infrastructure like rail, roads, power dams, power transmission and oil refinery, apart from creating jobs on their own, will eventually continue to bring down the cost of doing business, which will in turn attract private investment and create more jobs for the people of Uganda.

"It is undisputed that infrastructure development

has a multiplier effect on investment and job creation."

"This year's International Labour Day theme relates to the challenges that the country has been experiencing in providing decent employment opportunities and job creation. Furthermore, the theme is in line with the aspirations of the second National Development Plan (NDPII), which aims to propel the country towards middle income status by 2020, through strengthening the country's competitiveness for

sustainable wealth creation, decent employment and inclusive growth."

Nakiwala explains that the theme calls on Government, all category of investors and other stakeholders to redesign and review their policies, laws, strategies and programmes with the view of increasing jobs for the working age population that increased to 19.1 million in 2016/17, from 16.5 million in 2012/13, as reported in the Uganda Bureau of Statistics National Household Survey 2016/17.

There is also need to integrate employment impact assessment in social impact assessment of infrastructure projects, as well as making employment creation one of the measurable indicators of success of every infrastructure project.

We should also encourage adoption of technology that supports both efficiency and high employment impact of infrastructure projects, as well as promoting social safeguards in infrastructure projects, including promotion and protection of workers in infrastructure projects.

This year's national celebrations for the International Labour Day will be held at Patongo Akwee Primary School playground in Patongo town council, Agago district.



CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY

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Congratulations !!

The Board, Management and staff of **Civil Aviation Authority** salute His Excellency the President of **the Republic of Uganda, Yoweri Kaguta Museveni**, the Government and the entire working fraternity on the **International Labour Day**.

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Artistic impression of the Aircraft Parking Apron on completion



UGANDA ELECTRICITY TRANSMISSION COMPANY LIMITED

2019 LABOUR DAY CELEBRATIONS

The Board of Directors, Management and Staff of the Uganda Electricity Transmission Company Limited (UETCL), congratulate the entire workforce upon the tremendous accomplishments that have helped to transform the economy of Uganda.

UETCL is committed to providing reliable, efficient and quality power supply for sustainable regional development that will enable Government achieve its objective of meeting the energy needs of Uganda.

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