

By Nelson Kiva

The Minister for the Presidency, Milly Babalanda, has appealed to single mothers across the country to embrace government wealth-creation programmes as a pathway to improving household incomes and securing the welfare of their children.

Speaking during a meeting with leaders of single mothers at her country home in Buyende district on Thursday, Babalanda said government programmes, such as the Parish Development Model (PDM) and Emyooga are designed to support all Ugandans without discrimination and can be leveraged by single mothers to overcome economic hardship.

"We have programmes like PDM and Emyooga. Encourage these women to make use of

them so that they can improve their incomes and take care of their families," Babalanda said.

She added that where gaps exist, government is willing to provide additional support to ensure vulnerable groups, including single mothers, are not left behind.

The appeal came as leaders of single mothers presented a petition highlighting the challenges facing women raising families on their own. Winfred Nassanga, the president of single mothers in Uganda, said many single mothers lack stable sources of income, yet shoulder the responsibility of feeding and educating their children.

BETWEEN THE LINES

In response, Babalanda reassured the mothers that government programmes are open to all and do not discriminate, urging leaders to mobilise women at the grassroots to participate.

"Most single mothers do not have any reliable income, but they still have to provide food, school fees and other basic needs," Nassanga said.

She also raised concern over widespread cases of property grabbing, particularly

affecting widows, where in-laws allegedly seize land, homes and businesses following the death of a husband.

"Some mothers lose everything after losing their husbands. Their in-laws grab land, houses and

businesses, leaving them vulnerable," Nassanga said, calling for stronger protection of women's property rights.

Nassanga further

noted that, despite the existence of several government programmes, many single mothers remain excluded due to difficulties in meeting enrolment requirements. She called for affirmative action to ensure greater inclusion.

In response, Babalanda reassured the mothers that government programmes are open to all and do not discriminate, urging leaders to mobilise women at the grassroots to participate.

She also expressed concern about the growing number of single mothers in the country and called on religious leaders and communities to play a role in addressing marital and family challenges that contribute to the trend.



Babalanda