

## **Disengagement of YAP Beneficiaries**

In October 2022, the Forestry Commission submitted a proposal to the Ministry of Lands & Natural Resources requesting approval to review the YAP for improved efficiency and effectiveness. Again, in January 2023, a committee which was set up to review the YAP submitted a report recommending a reduction in the number of beneficiaries to 2,000. This was aimed at ensuring efficiency and keeping the numbers at a level that would guarantee regular payment of allowances. However, no official response was received from the Ministry. On 19<sup>th</sup> February 2025, the Commission again wrote to the Ministry requesting approval to phase out the YAP with the view to review the Project and develop a new and improved youth-centred program with sustainable and clear budget lines to support the implementation of the Government's Tree for Life Reforestation Initiative.

On 27<sup>th</sup> February 2025, the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources approved the FC's proposal to phase out the YAP by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025. Pursuant to this approval, the FC has directed all Regional / District Managers to issue disengagement letters to all beneficiaries under their jurisdiction following due process.

## **The Way Forward**

The Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources is working closely with the Ministry of Finance to ensure that all validated and due outstanding beneficiary allowances are paid in due course.

The Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources and the Forestry Commission express their gratitude to the beneficiaries under the YAP for their contribution towards the growth, restoration and protection of the nation's forests and wish them well in their future endeavours, which may include opportunities under the upcoming Tree for Life Reforestation Initiative.

### **Issued by**

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