



# Prioritizing the Implementation of Ghana's National Aging Policy

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## Editorial

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## Editorial

I'm writing to express my concerns regarding Ghana's 2010 National Aging Policy's implementation delay. This policy was designed to tackle the challenges that older people confront in the country, such as poverty, a lack of access to healthcare, and a lack of social support. Despite being adopted over a decade ago, it has failed to be fully implemented, leaving senior Ghanaians with several challenges.

Poverty is one of the most significant concerns. In Ghana, a significant proportion of the elderly are living in poverty and finding it difficult to support themselves and their basic needs. This is attributable in part to the absence of pension and social protection programs for the elderly, as well as limited access to employment opportunities. Although the National Aging Policy was meant to address these issues, progress has been slow.

Furthermore, older people in Ghana have limited access to healthcare, which can have a substantial influence on their quality of life. The policy called for greater investment in healthcare services for the elderly, although this has yet to be implemented. As a result, many elderly people are going without critical medical care, which can lead to increased health problems and a lower quality of life.

Social support for elderly people is also limited, which can be isolating and lead to feelings of loneliness and depression. The National Aging Policy sought to provide social support for older people, notably through community-based activities

and the creation of age-friendly communities. This part of the program, however, has not been completely implemented, and older people in Ghana continue to get inadequate care from their family, communities, and the government.

The policy's implementation has been delayed for a variety of reasons. To begin with, there has been a dearth of political will to prioritize issues related to aging. Second, the policy has not been well integrated into other government plans and budgets, making obtaining needed funding and resources difficult. Finally, there has been a lack of public awareness of the policy's significance and possible impact on the lives of the elderly.

The government must act immediately to address the delay in implementing the National Aging Policy. This can be achieved through improving public awareness of the policy, securing financing and resources, and giving aging issues priority in government planning and budgeting. Additionally, the government must engage with important stakeholders, such as the senior population, to ensure that the policy satisfies their needs and addresses their concerns.

In conclusion, I urge the government of Ghana to act expeditiously to fully implement the National Aging Policy. This policy provides a road map for achieving the goals of ensuring the independence, security, and dignity of the country's elderly population. I believe that the challenges faced by senior citizens in Ghana can only be adequately addressed by fully implementing this policy.

