



**Tanzania Albinism Society - TAS MOROGORO**  
**10<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2020**

**CLAIMS MADE BY PERSONS  
LIVING WITH DISABILITIES IN  
RELATION TO OPPORTUNITIES  
PROVIDED FOR BY DIFERENT  
LAWS AND POLICIES**



**UNDER THE UNLOCKING LOCAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR  
PERSONS LIVING WITH DISABILITIES PROJECT**



## INTRODUCTION

It is approximated that there are about two million Tanzanians that are living with disabilities. This figure is equal to 5.8 percent of the whole population of the country. Other studies, findings and statistics show that Tanzania has about 4.2 million of people living with disabilities (PWDs). The figure includes all types of disabilities. Each of the disability has different challenges and ways to handle. However, there are some challenges that are similar to all types of disabilities.

The most common and the biggest challenge that all people living with disability face is inaccessibility of the opportunities that are provided for by different laws and policies in Tanzania. We do not take for granted the efforts made by various international organizations and the Government of Tanzania to ensure that Persons with Disabilities get access to different opportunities that are enjoyed by those who are not living with disabilities. The efforts so made can be witnessed through the laws, policies and so many other ways to fulfill and meet the above said needs of the PWDs.

Considering the efforts made, still we find that the rights for the Persons with Disabilities are less underscored regardless the available laws and policies. Thus, we demand the Government of Tanzania to ensure that the efforts are highlighted in a way that it will enable Persons with Disabilities to enjoy their basic rights and live decent and independent lives. We believe that Persons with Disabilities can live independently. This can be achieved through guaranteed decent work and opportunities. This is because we believe that economic independent is a way forward ending all types of cruelty, mistreatment and all types of exploitation to Persons living with Disabilities.



Right to live to us is the most expensive and valuable right, and this right cannot stand on its own without other rights thus the protection of other rights for Persons with Disabilities means protecting the right to live.

Thus, WE, Persons living with Disabilities, BELIEVE THAT all human beings are all equal and have equal rights.

**AND WE KNOW THAT** the Constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania (1977) recognizes equality for all human beings irrespective of their economic, political and disability status.

**WE ARE FURTHER IN COGNIZANCE THAT** different laws, policies and systems in Tanzania have provided for different opportunities for People Living with Disabilities.

**AND WE FURTHER KNOW THAT** Tanzania has ratified different International and Regional instruments on the protection of rights of the Persons with Disabilities. This includes provision and unveiling social, political and economic, informal and formal employment opportunities that are to be available for the Persons with Disabilities.

**THUS,** WE agreed to make this Charter of demands that policy making organs, law enforcement bodies, political leaders and other relevant authorities to make sure that they play their part to ensure that Persons with Disabilities get access to the available opportunities and live decent lives. With this regards, WE, People Living with Disabilities collectively, via this Charter we agree as follows;



## Article 1: RIGHT TO WORK

The Persons with Disabilities Act No. 9 of 2010 under section 31(2) *requires all employers with more than twenty (20) employees to make sure that three percent (3%) of all employees to be Persons with Disabilities.* We Persons living with Disabilities know that this law has remained in papers as neither private employers nor the government is making it effective and operational.

### Therefore, **WE DEMAND THAT:**

1. The Government to ensure that every employer including the government itself (Central and local) and its institutions/ agencies, public and private organizations abide to the law by employing Persons living with Disabilities as the law requires.
2. The Government to prohibit all forms of discrimination in work places.
3. The Government shall, as soon as practicable, issue regulations and guidelines to all employers to abide by the demand number one above.
4. The Government to ensure that all employers report to Social welfare officers on the conditions of the employees living with disabilities in work places. Including on the trainings that they do to PWDs and other employees and on how they train PWDs on how to deal with discrimination at work places.

## **Article 2. RIGHT TO ACCESS LOANS FOR ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES**

The Local Governments Act of 1982 as amended in 2018 section 37A (4), requires local government authorities to ensure that 2% of their revenues is to be allocated as loans with no interest on its repayment to Persons with Disabilities. We Persons with Disabilities appreciate this effort as it allows Persons with Disabilities to start fulfilling their dreams of being economically independent.

The key problem is that the procedures set forth for one to get the loans are complicated and not user friendly to protect Persons with Disabilities.

### **Therefore, WE DEMAND THAT:**

1. The government to simplify the procedures for many PWDs to access and benefit.
2. The government shall intentionally give first priority to PWDs in accessing the loans.
3. The government to ensure that the National Fund for Persons with Disabilities is established as soon as possible as per section 57 of the Persons with Disabilities Act no 9 of 2010

## **Article 3. EMPOWERING PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES TO FIT IN MANY SECTORS**

As per the five-year National Development Plan 2016/2021, the government sets out clear plans on how it will create an enabling environment and make sure that the persons with disabilities are empowered/trained/capacitated in a way that they can make them economically independent. However, these efforts are not seen to be implemented in any form.



### **Therefore, WE DEMAND THAT:**

1. The Government to ensure that it imparts working and entrepreneur skills to the persons with disabilities through different trainings and provide them with capital.
2. The Government to ensure that the empowering and training strategies are continuous.

### **Article 4. PROVIDING FUNDS AND GRANTS TO PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**

Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF) intends to reduce poverty by providing grants/ cash transfer to poor households. Households with Persons with Disabilities are among the poor households in Tanzania due a number of reasons: complicated job application system under the Public Service Recruitment Secretariat; unfriendly education system for people living with disabilities, lack of opportunities. All these make PWDs households poor and hold back their efforts.

### **Therefore, WE DEMAND THAT:**

1. The Government through TASAF, to give first priority to Persons living with Disabilities by giving them financial assistance and trainings on how they can use that the assistance so offered, thus enabling them to live decent and dignified finances independent lives.
2. The government to make special efforts to ensure that the funds/ assistance reach to the targeted groups especially PWDs.
3. The Government to ensure that the Public Service Recruitment Secretariat has a database of the Persons with Disabilities in order to ensure that the government and its agencies can employ them whenever opportunities arise or made through the Secretariat.



## **Article 5. AVAILING LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT EXECUTIVE OPPORTUNITIES**

Tanzania has made several efforts in ensuring that Persons with Disabilities are availed with leadership and executive posts in different institutions such as in cabinet, parliament and other.

We appreciate the efforts made though the number is still low and not enough. We honestly believe that PWDs can hold various posts.

### **Therefore, WE DEMAND THAT:**

1. The Government to ensure that it avails more leadership and executive opportunities to the Persons with Disabilities including in sensitive government institutions. These opportunities are to be availed in every government institution, public and private organization and in any other sensitive institution.
2. The Government to ensure that PWDs are not discriminated in leadership and executive opportunities simply because of their status.

## **Article 6. PROTECTION OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES DURING GENERAL ELECTIONS.**

Like any other persons, it is a basic right to vote and to be voted for. Thus, Persons with Disabilities have rights to vote and be voted. Tanzania will have its general election in October 2020. During this time when the country is going for general elections, PWDs needs more protection. This is because during the election the Government may pay more attention to the elections thus paving the way for PWDs' assailants to perpetrate their evils minds against PWDs. Tanzania has made efforts to ensure that Persons with Disabilities exercise this right.

Further during elections. Persons with Disabilities faced a lot of



challenges resulted from witchcraft beliefs in 2000s whereby we witnessed the untold miseries and killings of Persons with Albinism.

**Therefore, WE DEMAND THAT:**

1. The Government to ensure that Persons with Disabilities are protected during this period, election period, so that the past heinous actions and killings happened in 2000's do not happen once again.
2. The Government to ensure that any signs that endanger lives of Persons with Albinism are dealt with before the occurrence of actual evil acts.

**Article 7. PUBLIC AWARENESS ON THE RIGHTS OF THE PERSONS LIVING WITH DISABILITIES**

Tanzanians are not fully aware the rights of the Persons with Disabilities. This has led to mistreatment, discrimination and killing of persons with disabilities as many people believe that disability is a curse and misfortune. This has been the situation for decades, thus there is a need for people to change their minds and this can be done by creating public awareness about on disability and PWDs.

**Therefore, WE DEMAND THAT:**

1. The government to make sure that national curricula have disability components so that every person can have understanding about Persons Living with Disabilities and disabilities.
2. The Government shall make sure that all government development programs have special provisions that firmly discourage discriminations against PWDs.





## **Article 8: IMPLEMENTATION OF INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS AND DECLARATIONS THAT TANZANIA IS PARTY TO.**

Tanzania has ratified and expressed its intention to various international agreements and declarations that protect and offer various opportunities for Persons living with Disabilities. We appreciate the efforts done, but still there is a need for the government of Tanzania to ensure that the agreements and declarations are seen in practice by ensuring that what is written is practical, implemented and provided for to the Persons with Disabilities.

### **Therefore, WE DEMAND THAT:**

1. The Government to ensure that the International and Regional instruments and declarations that Tanzania is a party or expressed its interest to be party to are fully implemented and complied with.
2. The Government to ratify regional and international instruments that protect Persons Living with Disabilities.

## **Article 9. EDUCATION TO PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**

We appreciate Government's efforts made to make sure that people living disabilities get access to education. Such efforts include education grants in primary level as well as secondary as well.

However, still there are challenges that Persons with Disabilities face in accessing education such as lack of friendly infrastructures in schools, learning materials, and trained teachers on special needs education.



**Therefore, WE DEMAND THAT:**

1. The government to ensure Persons with Disabilities gets access to learning materials as per the needs of Persons with Disabilities.
2. The government to ensure that there is a special training program for all teachers on how to deal with students with disabilities/special needs
3. The government to ensure that the infrastructures such as toilets, classes and laboratories in all learning institutions are friendly to Persons with Disabilities.



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