



Qualitative

Celebrating Africans with disabilities

M A G A Z I N E

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This publication is part of The Qualitative Magazine Project "CONNECTING OUR VOICES TO THE WORLD"-propagating the potentials and challenges of Persons with Disabilities in Plateau State supported by VOICE NIGERIA

TQM BOSS URGES JOURNALISTS TO MAINSTREAM DISABILITY ISSUES IN ALL PROGRAMS

TQM LAUNCHES A
PROJECT TO
PROMOTE THE
POTENTIALS AND
CHALLENGES OF
PWDS IN PATEAU
STATE

DIANA FIGHTING HARD AT
NTA COLLEGE, JOS TO LIVE
HER DREAM OF BECOMING
A FILM/TV PRODUCER
DESPITE HER DISABILITY AND
FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES

HOW WE MET BY YVONNE JACK
(A WOMAN WITH DISABILITY
WHO WEDDED IN JOS)
AND HER HUSBAND

DISABILITY IS A MATTER OF PERCEPTION



I DON'T GO TOO
FAR BECAUSE THE
TAXIS AND BUSES
ALWAYS REFUSE
TO CARRY MY
TRICYCLE.





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The Editor's Message

THE MEDIA, KEY COMPONENT TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF DISABILITY LAWS AND POLICY

The media plays an important role in influencing public opinion and attitudes and how persons with disabilities are portrayed and the frequency with which they appear in the media has an enormous impact on how they are regarded in society.

In Nigeria and Plateau state to be specific, persons with disabilities often lack access to information about policies, laws and improvements in programmes and services that directly affect them. This knowledge gap perpetuates their exclusion from mainstream social, economic and political life. Promoting the inclusion of persons with disabilities requires the recognition of all people as full members of society and the respect of all their rights. Inclusion also involves ensuring the participation of persons with disabilities in all basic services available to the general population and the removal of barriers - physical, attitudinal, legal, regulatory, policy, communication - that prevent them from fully participating in society.

The Qualitative Magazine TQM as a non-profit social entrepreneurship media outfit dedicated for persons with disabilities (PWDs) purposefully ensures that its brand of reportage and activities would be strategically positioned towards giving persons with disabilities sense of belonging; curb all forms of discrimination, stigmatisation and dehumanisation, we got grant from Oxfam Voice and we are carrying out a project known as CONNECTING OUR VOICES TO THE WORLD in Plateau State to propagate the potentials and challenges of people with disabilities in Plateau State.

The objectives of the project are Empower PWDs by giving them a sense of belonging by showcasing their talents through The Qualitative magazine online, various social media and print platform; Amplify the voices of PWDs through The Qualitative magazine; Facilitate support base for PWDs so that those reading The Qualitative magazine online can locate them and provide help.

This, we are working to achieve through some major activities such as baseline survey on how persons with disabilities access the media houses and how the report their disability issues and perception of

the public about disability and persons with disabilities, media outreach on radio to engage the public on the issues and challenges faced by PWDs and how to address them, Document voices of PWDs who passed one stigma and discrimination and how they were able to overcome their barriers which would be in print, video documentary and online publications, Capacity building workshop for media houses on how to report disability issues while the media capacity would be built on the disability rights and right terminologies in reporting, and Capacity building workshop for persons with disabilities on how to report rights abuses.

This 15th edition of our print publication is exclusively sponsored by Oxfam Voice, it featured some of our activities so far and the activities of other voice grantees.

It will interest our readers to know that our activities has been recording some success, during our inception launch on 17th July, 2020, I capitalized on the opportunity to add my voice in appealing to the Plateau State Governor to beckon on President Muhammadu Buhari to establish National Commission for Persons with disabilities.

Ironically, on 24th August, 2020, Mr President established National Commission for Persons with disabilities and appointed James Lalu, Plateau State Indigene as the Executive Secretary of the commission.

This story(I don't go too far because the Taxis and Buses always refuse to carry my tricycle...John Satmak, Plateau based apprentice with disability) we published on 1st of September, 2020 got the intention of Rev. Georgian Ugah from Enugu state. She have already donated a more portable tricycle to him. It is only awaits money to convey it from Enugu to Jos because she doesn't have money to pay for the transport. We are already making arrangement to bring the tricycle to Jos for John Satmak.

Our media capacity building workshop has already started attracting collaborations from different media organizations, notably among them is Radio Nigeria.

We are also receiving a lot of feedbacks from our media outreach at Highland FM Jos. Some persons with disabilities have been writing us asking the

questions.

We are optimistic that before the end of our project in March, 2021, our overall goal of the project which is to connect persons with disabilities (PWDs) to the bigger world and build a huge support base for them in Plateau State will be achieved or its foundation has been laid.

This edition features our interviews with some major stakeholders on disability in Plateau, some intriguing and inspiring stories of persons with disabilities including some activities of persons with disabilities in Plateau State.

I am grateful to President Buhari for the gift of a commission for persons with disabilities and I wish to appeal to members of the board to live up to expectations.

I am hopeful that the commission will be a blessing to persons with disabilities, members of the board should not sit in air-condition office while there is a lot of stakeholders to reach out to. For instance, there has been a commission in Plateau state for a while and still major public buildings in the capital Jos are not accessible. Our team have written to Jos Metropolitan Development Board (JMDB) an agency in charge of building plan approval in Plateau State for an advocacy visit to educate them on the relevant laws and what is expected of them but we are yet to receive any reply from them.

Next edition will feature an exclusive interview of James Lalu, the Executive Secretary, more of our activities and the findings of our baseline survey.

Happy reading , we are expecting your feedbacks from this publication, write us via qualitativemagazine@yahoo.com or call us on 08035479337.





Cover Story

DIANA FIGHTING HARD AT NTA COLLEGE, JOS TO LIVE HER DREAM OF BECOMING A FILM/TV PRODUCER DESPITE HER DISABILITY AND FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES



Diana Emmanuel is a woman with physical disability who hails from Benue State, resides in Plateau State.

This beautiful lady who is from Tiv tribe was born in Plateau State by Mr. and Mrs. Emmanuel, the third born in the family of three boys and four girls. Her father is a retired civil servant, while her mother was a trader. They were not rich, but they were at their best and

provided for her and her siblings.

Diana whose her late mother hailed from Bassa Local Government of Plateau State from birth have spent all her life in Plateau State. So, Plateau State to her is her only home.

This student of Diploma in Film and Television Production at NTA college Jos, is still single and she had her disability at the age 3, she was full of life before the unfortunate incident.

In her chat with our correspondent Bulus Baba, she spoke more on how her disability happened, the challenges thereafter, her life with disability and her struggle in life to distinguish herself despite disability.

TQM: What was life like after you became a person with Disability at an early age of three?

Really, it was not easy for me as a Child, running around happily, playing among other children, suddenly within a short time, I became sick and lost the use of my legs.

Growing up in this condition was difficult, not only to me but to my parents as well, the joy of seeing their daughter growing up healthy was cut short.

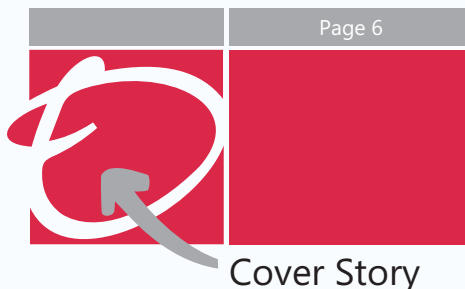
The little income they had which would have been used for other things were spent for medical bills in search of a possible cure and it continued for good number of years, unfortunately, I didn't get back on my feet. So, one can imagine the amount of money that they spent in that way.

TQM: Did you have the privilege of acquiring formal education?

Yes, even though I started late, at the age of ten years.

I can still remember how my mother, may her soul rest in peace, in her quest to have me acquire formal education, backed me and headed to St. Peters primary school Bukuru, only to be discouraged by one staff of the school whom we met on arrival, so I would have not gained admission into the school because of my disability. Even though my mother tried to explain to her my desire to be educated, she stood her ground and have denied me that opportunity claiming that a child like me cannot cope with the stress.

We felt hopeless, left her and tried another teacher, she asked why my mother was carrying a grown up child in her back. My



Cover Story

mother then narrated her story, she was touched by the story and she helped by taking us to the head teacher and even suggested that I should be in her class. With that, the journey of my education started.

May God almighty continue to bless that kind hearted teacher of mine. I don't know her full name, but I know her as Mrs. Bature, this is a name, I will never forget.

TQM: How did your classmates treat you?

I don't recall much ill- treatment, especially in class, because, Mrs. Bature watchful eyes were on me. She provided that protection and comfort for me. I completed my primary school there.

TQM: After primary school what followed?

After primary school, I couldn't go to Secondary school immediately because of financial difficulty. I stayed at home for years. I later went to Government Secondary school Bukuru, still in Jos South local government of Plateau state. I completed the Secondary Education in 2003.

In the year 2004 to 2005, I went for a diploma training in Computer Application.

Also, from 2010 – 2011. I was at Plateau State Rehabilitation centre, a training centre for physically challenge persons. There, I learnt sewing, cake baking, beads making and knitting.

For the first time in my life, I was met in large people of my kind (physically challenged persons), It was quite an experience, a good one for that matter, as we really connected well.

Upon completion, I came home and put the skills acquired into practice. I started making money from selling cakes and knitting babies seaters. Later, I added the sewing of ladies bags, processing of spices and even at a point, I went into poultry farming.

In 2017, I got admission into NTA Television

College Jos. But I could not be in school that time because of financial difficulty.

room, etc. I really try as much as I can to be less

TQM: Have you try doing other things outside, apart from schooling?

I have tried a number of things. I have contested for Miss Kpakpando in 2017 in Abuja where I represented Benue State. I was a wheelchair model at Africulash in 2018 which took place in Jos Plateau state. I am an active choir member in my Church, Evangelical Church Winning All (ECWA), worshipping with a local branch, Mum Gyel close to Building Materials Market in Jos South, Plateau state.

TQM: Any parting words?

To PWDs, God have placed ability in every disability, discover your own ability and to people without disability, they should support PWDs to be the very best they can be.



Diana Emmanuel on Red Carpet modeling for Africulash in Jos, Plateau State, 2018



Interview

**YOU HAVE A DISABILITY COMMISSION, YET PWDS ARE STILL SUFFERING, FOR THIRTY YEARS, NO PERSON WITH VISUAL IMPAIRMENT WAS EMPLOYED IN THE STATE CIVIL SERVICE
—JOSHUA YENLE, CHAIRMAN, NAB PLATEAU STATE**

By Izang Bala Bulus



Joshua Yenle is a producer and presenter at Radio Nigeria, Highland FM here in Jos, Plateau state. A Blind man who hailed from Mangu Local government. He speaks Mugavul as his tribal language and he is the Chairman of Nigerian Association of the blind in Plateau state. In this interview, he told us about his disability and his life coping with it.

TQM. You introduced yourself as a producer and presenter, our readers may want to know a little about your educational background that got you to that stage?

Ans. Real, it's not that I have gone far with my studies. I lost sight at a very tender age, at a time when I was about to start my primary school, so eventually I have to go to a special school. I started my school with the school for the blind children in Gindiri, after that, I went to Boys secondary school also in Gindiri, from there, I went to college of education still in Gindiri.

I have enjoyed other courses with the media, including BBC Media Action, where I had a lot of

training on media.

At the moment, I would say, I am almost in the University, where I hope to continue the media, which is a profession I have taken delight in. That is the little I can say about my background educationally.

TQM. What is the life of a person with visual impairment like on the Plateau, considering that you are leading that Association here?

Ans. Well unfortunately, when we are talking about the welfare of persons with visual impairment on the Plateau, it is very, very sad in the sense that, they don't wish to be blind in the first place, secondly, these are people who are struggling so much under very serious pressure to secure and acquire education and unfortunately, the employment opportunities are not there for them. Infact, it would shock you to know that, the last person with visual impairment that was employed under the Plateau state civil service was in 1990, that is 30 years ago. For thirty years, no single person with visual impairment was

employed in the state civil service. So you can imagine the number of graduates and number of those who have acquired different kinds of skills or discipline that are laying down without any form of government work.

Well, a few may be privileged to have one or two things doing, but we are talking about, where the state government concern should have come in, that is where the problem is. So looking at that situation, by implication a lot of our peoples' welfare is very poor. And unfortunately, there is no serious empowerment either created by government or non-governmental organizations to be able to take care of these people, unfortunately, that have been the story of persons with visual impaired.

TQM. What concrete steps have your association taken or is taking to help your members, since the government appeared not to be doing much towards your direction?

Ans. It may interest to know that our association is one of the first organization that started in Nigeria,



Interview

this association kick started in 1968 and come to Plateau in the year 1970. All this while, the association have been struggling over the years the welfare of persons with Disabilities is improve, particularly those with visual impairment. In fact, even under my watch, we even had the time to go out to demonstrate, we blocked government offices to secure government attention to create opportunity for us to work and to improve our welfare, but to no avail.

TQM. Sir, I believe there is one or two things that your association have done or is doing under your leadership to help improve the welfare of your members, even when the much desired assistance from the state government is not forth coming. What is that one or two things you have done or doing?

Ans. On our own as an association we have tried other things outside the government, one of such things is, when had the privilege of meeting Oxfam through their project called Voice Nigeria, we drew their attention on the need for our people to have ICT knowledge and luckily they gave us grand and with it were able to procure some laptops, presently we are training some few of our members. It is expected, under their sponsorship this program would go on for some time.

This is one of the effort we have made and we are still looking here and there to get stakeholders to come to our aid. And I think this is an opportunity here to put a call across through this media to anybody or group of persons that are interested in our case to please come to our aid.

TQM. What will be your call to parents who are having children visual impairment, that are hiding them rather than helping such children to live a life worth living?

Ans. Take away pride, take away arrogance, can I use myself as an example, I want to assure that I am not even one of the best examples when it comes to the blind, who can be said to be well informed, well educated, well established or well to do, on the Plateau. No, there are many other persons are blind out there doing well in their respective fields or endeavors. Now that is a conformation to such parents, that there is no need to hide your own child. If the child of Mr A, who is blind like you own can do great things, why do you think that your child cannot do it? That is to tell you that, you are rather deceiving yourself and ruining the life of your child. It is possible you are

hiding one of the best person not only in your family, but possibly state or even in the country.

For example, the special adviser to the president on Disability matters, Dr. Ankeli is a person with visual impairment.

I am happy to announce to you that, we have even professors that is visually impaired in this country, people like professor Jibril, a lecturer with Bayero University Kano. He schooled at the famous school for the blind children in Gindiri, what about Professor Bani of blessed memory now, who was a physiotherapy Doctor with Ahmadu Bello University Zaria. What about Mr. Bala Dakup, who is a director here at the Plateau State Disability Rights Commission, who was once a staff of Plateau Radio and Television Corporation. These are few of many, many stories of persons with visual impairment and they are stories to tell.

So it is not anything good to hide or deny education and training to any child with visual impairment or any form of Disability. It may appear to be very difficult, as to educate a child with visual impairment is expensive, but leaving your child without education is even more expensive.

TQM. How can you assess The Disability Rights here on the? The journey so far?

Ans. If I am to assess what we now have as the Plateau State Disability Rights Commission which, we are lucky, it happens to be the first in the whole federation. In acted and signed by the then Governor Dariye in 2005, and was put in action by the passed Governor Jang in 2013. Well so far so good. There is no much to tell about the achievement of the commission on the side of persons with Disabilities, as you still find these people going hungry, they are still going unemployed, they are still going without education and you still find homeless. And these are the major reasons why people with disabilities on the Plateau struggled for a commission to be created for them to take them out of Egypt, if I may go biblical. But unfortunately, the situation still remains the same. I wish the government should change its attitude towards persons with Disabilities, when people are complaining, government should hear what they are saying, perhaps they may take up something.

The United Nations charter says, if a community is said to be good, then it would be established from

When you see people by virtue of their condition, they have been relegated over the years, and then up to this moment, you say you have a commission for them, yet they are still suffering, then ask yourself is it that they don't have budget for this commission? If they have, where is that budget going to? Who is eating what belongs to thousands of hundreds of persons with on the Plateau? It is a very big question.

TQM. Sir, what would be your take on recently appointment members of Disability commission at the federal level by president Buhari?

Ans. I must commend President Buhari, if not for anything at least for the singular act of even signing the bill that is now a law. The discrimination against Persons with Disabilities (Prohibition) Act 2018, which he signed in January last year. This has been lingering over the years under different administration at the federal level at the end of the day he signed it. That is a good thing for PWDs.

Now the constituting of the commission members which the President has since announced is another good thing from him, and I will want to believe the selection was done in good faith.

My call on these people who have been saddled with this opportunity should not disappoint millions of persons with Disabilities. And to the president, we appreciated the wonderful gesture given to us.

TQM. Thank Sir for your time.

Ans. You are welcome



JOSHUA YENLE,
CHAIRMAN, NAB PLATEAU STATE



Interview

WE ARE WAITING FOR THE GOVERNMENT AUTHORIZATION TO RELEASE THE EMPLOYMENT LIST OF PWDS... KARL GURUNYEN, THE SECRETARY PLATEAU STATE DISABILITY RIGHT COMMISSION

Our correspondents Joshua Yenle, Izang Bala Bulus and Kenneth Alabaraonye had a chat with Karl Gurunyen, the Secretary Plateau State Disability Right Commission in line with TQM interaction with the major stakeholders in Plateau State to get their support towards the improvement of the welfare of persons with disabilities in Plateau State.

TQM: What have you established to be the Challenges of persons with disabilities on the Plateau?

Like you are aware, apart from persons with disabilities, we know there are challenges everywhere, especially in this era of Covid-19. But narrowing down to persons with disabilities, like you rightly said, the Challenges are enormous. One of the Challenges is as result of the Covid-19. We are faced with the issues of insufficient palliative to our people. Though the government have done its bit, but it is not as we expected. We hope the government would do more in that respect because we have so many people that are suffering as a result of this pandemic, especially persons with disabilities.

But I am aware that there are so many committees in place that are trying to see how they will cushion the effects of the pandemic. I am also aware that there is a committee headed by the Governor to curtail the spread of Covid-19. And there is another one saddled with the responsibility of giving out palliative headed by the deputy Governor. I am also aware of another committee of Non-governmental organization that is also interested in giving out palliative. And persons with disabilities have been adequately captured, that at the end of the day, when they do the distribution it would get to persons with disabilities.

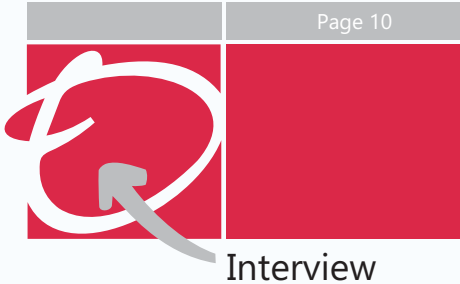


TQM: With this Covid-19, Students are being educated via online and other media platform. How are you handling Students with disabilities that are under your Commission?

You know our students are special candidates. Like you said there are so many online programs ongoing, but for now, students with disabilities are not included. I am not aware of any provision for online programs for them because of their special needs to learn. But we are thinking and discussing on how we can fashion a way so that they can key in. You know students with disabilities need a special package, special gadget and special care so, it is not the same with students without disabilities that can

watch TV or go online. There are supposed to be special arrangement for them, and this special arrangement needs money. And you equally know that every other activity of this commission is funded by government. So we are going cup in hand to seek for assistance, to see what will happen, especially, if the students will not be going back to school in this September, that is where we must collectively, all stakeholders and the commission, must come together to see a way out. If not, we will be left out.

TQM: But don't you think the delay is getting to much, since Covid-19 Lockdown started since March this year?



Interview

I do not want you to use the word delay, because, Covid-19 is not a deliberate thing, it is not a policy of the government it is not anybody's intention that the thing should come. But, we were thinking by now, students would have been back in schools. If you would recall, two States have taken the bold steps, and now are opening back their schools, may be our state may key in now, so I don't think it's a delay.

TQM: Away from issues of education, let's go to that of employment. Do you

have cases of unemployment amongst persons with disabilities on the Plateau?

Of course, we do.

TQM: So what is your Commission doing about that?

The commission like you know is an Agency of the government, and anything that we would do, have to be with government approval.

And the government have graciously given us the opportunity to employ persons with disabilities, and we as commission have interviewed a lot of persons with disabilities for the employment, but because, of Covid-19 and other things, it has been delayed. If government give us the go ahead now, employment list would be released.

On our own, we are looking at other avenues apart from government, where we can assist persons with disabilities. Where we see and identify potentials in them, we normally support that. We have a department saddled with that responsibility and the department is up and doing. I want to assure you that very soon, you will be proud of the commission in that respect.

TQM: By virtue of figure, what is the estimated number of persons with disabilities on the Plateau?

Base on the last attempt, the commission made in 2018 to have a survey- I really do not have the figure off hand now, and I would not want to give out figure out of context of the survey document.

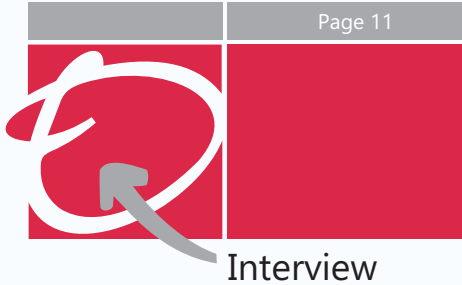
Even at that, we would not have the certain figure, what we have is not a census as only National Population Commission have the authority to conduct a head count. Thank you.

TQM. Thank you for your time, sir.

You are welcome



TQM's Kenneth Alabaraonye and Karl Gurunyen, the Secretary Plateau State Disability Right Commission



Interview

GOVERNMENT SHOULD DO MORE, THERE ARE UNEMPLOYMENT, UNFRIENDLY ENVIRONMENT, LACK OF TRAINING AND EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FACING PWDS...SETH ATTAH, JONAPWD CHAIRMAN PLATEAU STATE



Our correspondent in Jos, Plateau, IZANG Bala Bulus encountered Seth Attah, the chairman Joint National Association of Persons with Disabilities on the Plateau and their chat opened up the challenges facing persons with disabilities in Plateau State.

TQM: What are some of the problems or challenges of persons with disabilities on the Plateau?

In fact, there are a lot of challenges facing the persons with disabilities. Number one we have lack of employment, number two is the environmental barrier, number three is lack of training, number four is the issue of education, etc. Actually, there are a lot of challenges facing us here on the

TQM: What is the level of Unity existing among persons with disabilities on the Plateau? Do you have issues of misunderstanding among you?

We really don't have problems. We have a very cordial relationship among ourselves, yes some little things may come up from time to time, but we usually used to resolve them as they come amicably and immediately.

TQM: With what we are experiencing globally and Nigeria inclusive, that is the issue of covid-19 pandemic. What is the welfare of your members amidst of it here on the Plateau?

The welfare of my members here is very poor. Since covid-19 started, I would say only two NGOs plus the government have come to our aid. We the persons with disabilities expected the government to have done more than it has did, we are still hoping the government would come and help us.

TQM: Now let's look at the synergy between PWDS and the commission. What is the relationship like?

We the PWDS are having a good working relationship with Plateau State Disability Rights commission, because, anything or advice we ask from them, they always response to them quickly.

TQM: You earlier said, the conditions of your members is poor, what is the position of the commission with regard to this?

All these problems that PWDS are facing on the Plateau, are well known by the commission, and they are doing their best to resolve them by the grace of God.

TQM. What do you think are the benefits of the project of The Qualitative Magazine "Connecting Voices to The World" to your members?

I am sure that my members would gain a lot from it, as it will give them opportunity to tell their stories as it is and as it affects them, their success, their desires and even challenges. These would not only have impact on other people with disabilities here on the Plateau, but in Nigeria as well.

My call here, is for my members to make good use of this given opportunity. And to The Qualitative Magazine, not to remain only within the State capital, but to villages and contact with some of our members there as well.

TQM: Thank you very much Sir for your time.

God bless you and may you continue to do this good job, you are doing.



Interview

HOW WE MET BY YVONNE JACK (A WOMAN WITH DISABILITY WHO WEDDED IN JOS) AND HER HUSBAND

by Victoria Dungkwa, TQM correspondents, Jos



HOW WE MET BY
YVONNE JACK
(A WOMAN WITH
DISABILITY
WHO WEDDED IN JOS)
AND HER HUSBAND

Yvonne Jack, a woman with disability on 8th August, 2020 wedded Joseph Atta in a grand wedding ceremony which took place at Solomon Lar amusement park Jos. The wedding was officiated by Pastor Ishaya Paul Demsa Fountain of life Ministry Int. The Qualitative Magazine TQM dig into how they met because they look good together.

"We met on Facebook some years back, we were good friends. When he approached and proposed marriage it was like a joke" Yvonne revealed.

My people knew him to be a good person so

when he proposed marriage even though it was a bit difficult, they later accepted him, Yvonne added.

Joseph Atta, her husband told us that it was not easy for his people to accept his decision but he made them understand anybody can become a victim of such predicament.

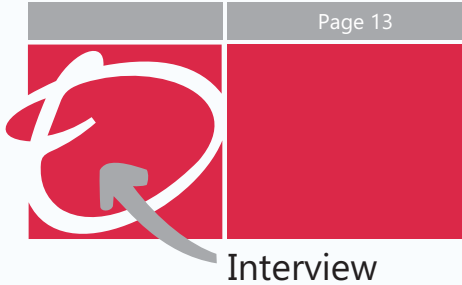
"Some are even dead I thank God that he kept her for me. Even friends talked, but today We are married because they all understood and supported us" he added.

Yvonne Jack is a baker who bakes the best banana bread in Jos and she is also the face of

Makari products, advertising Makari products in Jos.



Yvonne Jack at the middle with her friends



Interview

I DON'T GO TOO FAR BECAUSE THE TAXIS AND BUSES ALWAYS REFUSE TO CARRY MY TRICYCLE...JOHN SATMAK, PLATEAU BASED APPRENTICE WITH DISABILITY



John Satmak Emmanuel, a person with physical disability, acquired disability at age of three years as a result of polio. He who hails from Pankshin Local Government of Plateau state lost his father at a tender age. He has two sisters and a brother. After his father demise, the mother took the responsibility of taking care of them from a petty trading.

In this interview conducted by our correspondent in Jos, Bulus Baba, who got him to discuss about his struggles.

TQM: What are you doing now?

I am an apprentice, learning how to repair handsets.

TQM. For how long have you been doing this?

This is my third year. I started with Oga Godwin. Last year, he introduced me to his brother Oga Joseph. That is where I am now.

TQM: You said, you have been learning this work for three years now, where you doing something before?

Yes, I was in school.

TQM: Can you tell a little about your educational life?

I started my primary school in Mangu local Government of Plateau state when I was about nine years. For my first year in school, my mother and other relations, will carry me on they back to and school. It was in the second year of my primary school, that a Tricycle was bought for me. That marked the time where I started going to school by myself.

After primary school, I went to Israel Victory College mile eight in Pankshin Local Government of Plateau state. From there, I proceeded to Baptist High school Parsat, still in Pankshin where I completed my secondary school Education.

After that, I stayed at home for some time not knowing what to do next.

It was at this stage, that the Church where I worship came to my rescue, after discussion with them, they took me to my first Oga, Oga Godwin to learn how to repair handsets, which I am now doing for about three years now.

TQM: After you finish handset learning, what would you do next?

I will open my own repair shop, make money and build a house, then I will marry.

TQM: I hope when the time for you to get marry, you will remember to invite Qualitative Magazine to come and celebrate with you?

(He smiles)

TQM. After all these, what next?

Nothing much.

TQM: You don't want to go back to again school?

No, even when I was in primary and secondary school, my prayers just learn how to read and write. We don't have money, so I have never dream of going beyond learning how to read and write.

TQM: You said earlier, the Church where you worship came to your rescue, how do access the Church to worship?

I don't have problem with that, I go into the Church on my Tricycle.

TQM: What about other places, Like government offices, business centers, etc. Do you also enter such places on you Tricycle?

I don't go too far places like that.

TQM: Why do you not go to such places?

Because, I have to go there by Taxi or bus, and to do that, I will have to be carried into and out of the Taxi or Bus. And Sometimes, they don't want to carry my Tricycle.



Interview

TQM: Are You a member of organization of persons with disabilities? If yes, do go for their meetings?

No. I am not a member.

TQM: You don't want to be part of them?

I would like to be part of them, but I don't know

where they are.

TQM: How do you get your Tricycle?

The first one my mother bought it for me, while the second one was given to me free, I was taken to a place in Pankshin, it was there that I was given the Tricycle.

TQM: What would you like to say to other

people with Disability that are out there without doing something to earn a living?

I would say, if they can, they should get something doing to protect their interest no matter how little it may be.

TQM: Thank you Mr. John, for your time. We wish you the Very best in life.



John Satmak working happily in their workshop



John Satmak attending to a customer



John Satmak crawling pass a barrier in front his master's workshop



Interview

AGAINST ALL ODDS: A LADY WITH ALBINISM UNDER RAIN AND SUN SELLS ENGINE OIL AT A JUNCTION IN JOS TO SURVIVE



Lino Edim is woman with albinism hails from

She had a chat with our correspondent, Bulus Baba at a roadside where she sells engine oil to make a living.

TQM: As a person with albinism, how have you been coping?

Life has really not been easy, either from parents, siblings and relatives. But then, I have to be strong and encourage myself in one way or the other to keep on interacting with people no matter what may be happening around me. I believe that it is this self-encouragement I have that have brought me this far. I am thankful to God for His grace, without Him, I would not have gotten to where I am.

I finished my primary and secondary school successfully.

During my primary and secondary school days, I was the only student with albinism. So a lot of

the students, somehow don't like me, but I still have some of them as friends.

TQM: So there was little or no discrimination from students?

Well I will not say that, but when you see the negative sides of things, you will get negative result, but when you look at the positive side, you will have positive outcome.

But my tertiary institutions, the story was not that successful.

I got admission into Plateau state polytechnic to read diploma in public administration, I managed to complete my first year but I had to stop in my second year final examination, because, I could not pay for my second year fee.

TQM: Did you apply for scholarship?

No, because, I did not come across any offer.

TQM: After that, how did you carry on with life?

Since my parents died and with no one to assist me. I started a little business of selling engine oil at sparkling junction, along Yakubu Gowon expressway here in Jos.

Generally, the patronage is not much. I still appreciate God.

TQM: The president just approved the appointment of Board members of National Commission for Persons with Disabilities.

What is your take on this?

I will say it is a good development because, it shows that, this government really have interest in the well-being of persons with Disability.

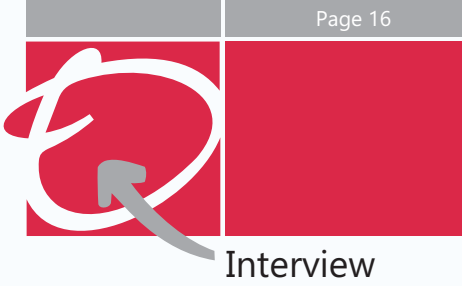
Let use this time to say thank you to Mr. President for this big step taken in considering PWDs.

TQM: What will be your call to people with Disability who are losing hope in life because of challenges?

They should not to lose hope, as long as there is life, there is hope, God can turn around the table at any time.

I know it is not easy, but then we should not allow fear to over shadow us. Let keep trusting for better days to come.





Interview

I QUIT MY PREFERRED PROFESSION DUE TO LACK OF ACCESSIBLE ENVIRONMENT FOR PWDS IN PLATEAU STATE... ALFRED EHIME OLOWOOKERE

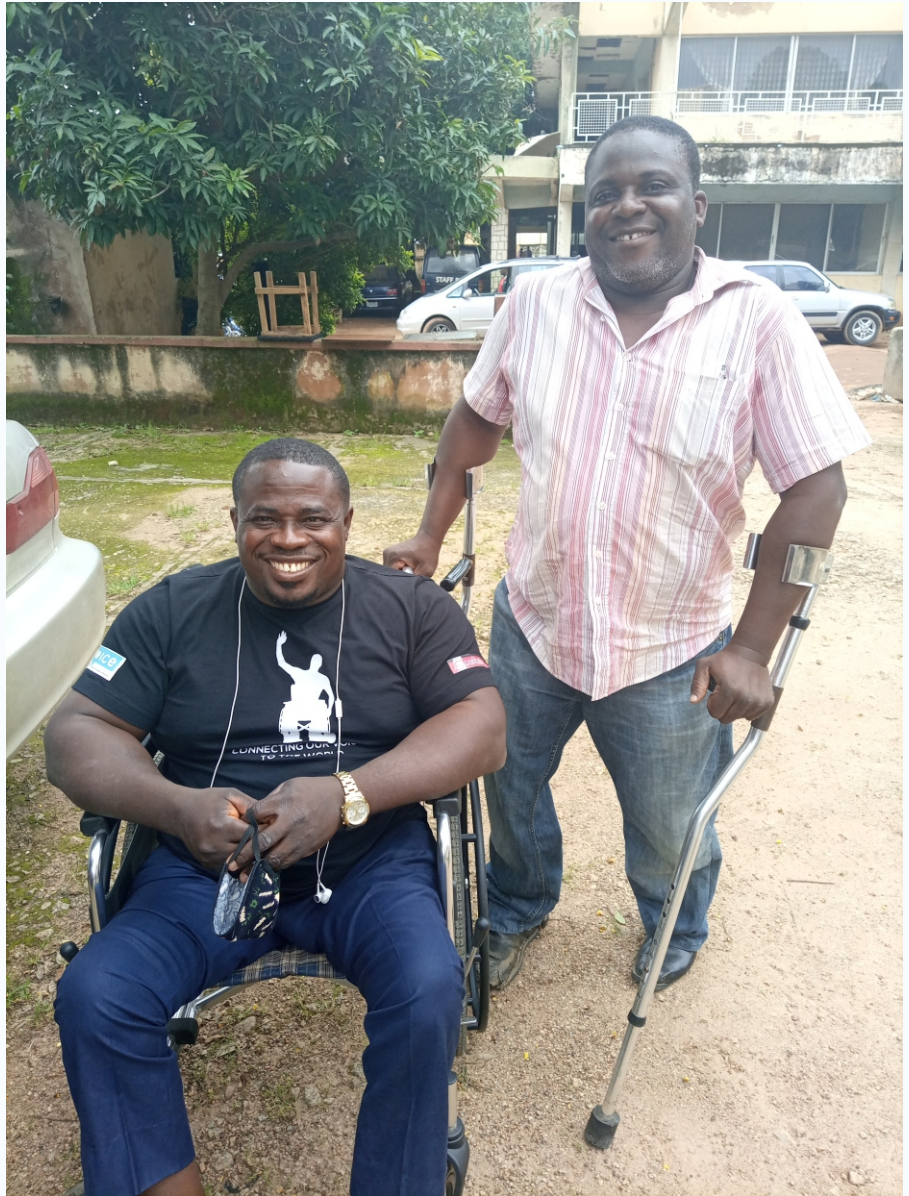
Alfred Ehime Olowookere is an architect and an accountant with disability from Edo State but working and reside in Jos, Plateau State. He is 52 years old, married with three kids and despite his disability, he is well educated. This eloquent and smooth talking polio survivor studied architecture first and later dabbled into the field of accountancy as an alternative to architecture because of rigorous activities involved in practicing architecture due to his physical disability and inaccessibility of the environment that made it practically impossible for him to practice.

In an interactive chat with Chris Agbo, ED, The Qualitative Magazine TQM, he shared his experience while going to school, employment challenges and other challenges faced by persons with disabilities (PWDs).

Agbo: So you were not able to operate as an architect because of your disability and lack of access to your environment. It is quite understandable that the stress you are facing in moving around was actually created by the society because our government have not seen reasons to make the environment more inclusive even with the existing laws that have given them mandates, it is unfortunate that it was why you had to quit your most loved profession and had to go into something else that will keep you in one place to make ends meet. The decision was a giant stride on your part and it is also a clear indication that inaccessibility of public infrastructures affects persons with disabilities negatively.

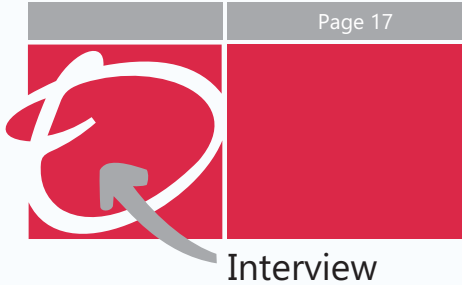
Agbo: How did your disability occur?

Yeah, it was polio at the age of 5 and I can't really



say how it came. All I knew was I grew up and saw myself in this condition and I had a father and mother who cared so much for me. My father was a military officer, a colonel in the army and my mother is a lawyer so they were able to cater for me till I finished my University education. They encouraged me to choose a course of my dream

but the actual fact is that the disability really restricted me a lot in the sense that even when I was at the primary school I have to be given some special considerations. In my primary school we were 4 physically challenged persons in Command children's school Jaji. Myself, Ini Osoro and two others were given that special considerations in



Interview

the sense that even when our class room were supposed to be upstairs in the arm we belong to, they brought our classes downstairs for us and the same thing happened in Federal Government College, Kaduna, where I schooled. In my class when in was in JSS 3, I was supposed to be upstairs but because of my condition, our class was brought down for me and Samuel Ajidawu to avoid the stress of climbing the stairs but when I was at University of Jos, I had to experience a different scenario because the University will not bring down the lecture room from upstairs to downstairs so I had to encourage myself throughout. We were few physically challenged persons in my department and one of the girls had to drop out from school because she couldn't withstand the challenges but I had to endure till the end.

Agbo: So one of the physically challenged person had to drop out because of the inaccessibility of the school facilities at University of Jos? whoa!!! Whoa!!! Whoa!!! That's a very tough one, so in your primary and secondary levels you didn't have so much problem but the problem was at the University level?

Yes!

Agbo: So what it means is that lack of access is an issue we must address. You have said that your father saw you through school, then apart from this, you had issue of access in your university days. What are other challenges or maybe other discriminations that you faced, is there any?

Yes, I remembered when I applied for a banking job and after the second interview. We had a written and oral interview, my name was removed

from the list of those qualified even when I know that I was among the best five (5) in that interview because they also confirmed it. After then I had to do something to understand properly what they were doing whether it is my disability that was counting against me, I had to apply for the position of a chief security officer in that same organization and I was selected and contacted to come based on my resume and immediately they saw my resume, they were excited that they have gotten the best man for the position but immediately I appeared, they told me No that there was a mix up in the name somewhere and that was how I was dropped. So the moment they see you on clutches or wheelchair they just believe you are a liability to their organization or you are there to slow them down, I concluded that if this is the case, I become a serious advocate of entrepreneurship for people with disabilities. Entrepreneurship trainings for people with disabilities because we will actually do better as employers of labour instead of being job seekers. It can turn the table around and things will surely work out for us. I see people with disabilities being CEOs of big farms, CEOs of big companies, accounting firms, architectural firms.

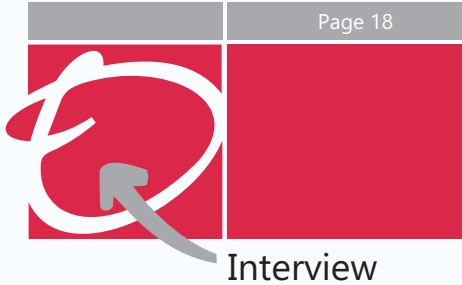
Agbo: To you, this is one of the solutions, you think can work to curb unemployment among persons with disabilities.

Yes! but it may not be the only solution.

Agbo: Yes, because there should be reasonable accommodation for persons with disabilities in workplace because they also deserve to work. I understand your submission quiet well, it is in order but we still don't rule out the possibility of the organizations to create an enabling environment for PWDs because we don't need to create a world of our own, we are part of the

world, there should be an inclusive society. Everyone must be part of it, so that is what we should be promoting more now but what you said can be looked into but is good for us to discuss it as our inward strategy and try to engage ourselves with things that can make us employers of labour but when speaking to the public, we have to make them understand that they have to create enabling environment for us to work anywhere we want to work. As an entrepreneur, you also need to move around. It is a very insightful one and I am so happy you shared it with me. I may ask, is there any other discriminations that you think that PWDs are facing apart from the ones you faced especially those that didn't go to school, those in the hinterland, those who did not have the kind of opportunities you had, what do you think they are passing through and what can be done to address them?

Let me start with people who did not have the opportunity go to school, you can see that they didn't go to school and learning a trade is the only option they have but that depends on the kind of disabilities they have or level of disability, there are some that can make use of their hands very well but the legs are their challenges and there are ones that can use their legs very effectively but their hands are their challenges and they are some without the hands and legs while some are autistic so we need to look at it from that angle, but based on the question, I am going to make a holistic statement that those who didn't go to school will have to be trained in one vocation or the other depending on the level and kind of the disability person has. Secondly for those people from the hinterland who don't have access to any of these things, you will discover that they are always coming to the cities with the only option of begging for alms and we have to remove this



Interview

stigma because I have had an experience one time, I was at a bus stop trying to board a Keke Napep and a woman came to me and was handing 50naira to me thinking I am a beggar.

Agbo: So the public have now generalized it as if any person with disability is a beggar?

Immediately we entered the Keke Napep together because we were going towards the same direction, in our way I decided to prove to the woman that not all persons with disabilities are beggars, so I brought out 1000naira and paid for her fee and obviously she didn't have up to the 1000naira on her. She was impressed and ended up apologizing to me. PWDs need to see how we can meet as a group to make the public begin to see us as people who have potentials and not beggars. The disability is only a condition not an obstacle for persons with disabilities. PWDs are living beyond it with hardwork and determination, it is never a hindrance to one's success.

Agbo: you have really delve into my next question because I was about to ask you, what are your advice for persons with disabilities because earlier, you were talking about so many of them being beggars so it really occurred to me that they actually need special people like you to motivate them or tell them the best ways to live their lives. You have said something on it but let's still have more things you will say on that?

The only thing I will add is that we should be given opportunities in terms of trainings, secondly access to funding, let me give an example, N POWER programme that they pegged the age at 35, what will happen to PWDs who are above 35, they were excluded from these opportunities, so I believe that the government should look into it

because most people who their disability are as a result of polio.

Their age range is slightly above 35 because the polio virus infection was very rampant during the 70s and early 80s, so when you now screen them out, are you saying that these people should struggle on their own till the end, knowing fully well that majority of them didn't have higher degree certificates, never had opportunities of accessing good health services, never had the opportunities of accessing government funding, so I will implore that government should look into the category of this particular group, so that they can have their hands in something, having them trained or established in one area or the other, at the end of the day Nigeria will be far better for it, this way you will have less dependency on people, less beggars on the street and more PWDs providing for their families.

Agbo: That's very insightful and you have also delved into my very next question which is your advice to the government but you have touched it, so what is your advice to the general public. As persons with disabilities we understands that the greatest challenge of people with disabilities are facing is the public perceptions, it was the perception that made somebody on seeing you just handed 50naira to you. Our problems are caused by the society because if the society would accept the persons with disabilities the way they are; the society would be a better place. It is perception that will make a family to reject a person with disability from marrying their daughter or son, and are many more examples. So what do you have to tell the general public about persons with disabilities?

Persons with disabilities are like every other

person, we have the blood running in our system, we have the same brains, we have the same rights and we are staying in the same environment, so we are actually accessing the same air, so we are like every other person. There is an adage in my language that says you don't throw away the baby with the dirty water, now based on this fact the community or the society should accept and understand that we are part of the community and that we have our own quota to contribute to the development of the society, so they should see us as people that are challenged but with little assistance, we can excel in every field of endeavors and become victors.

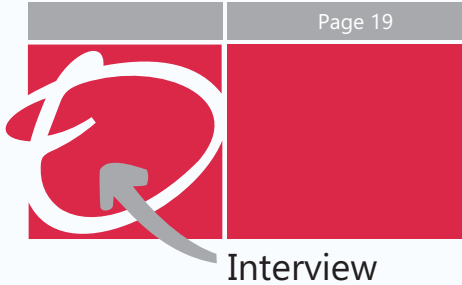
Agbo: How lucrative has your job been? I mean the Job you are doing right now.

Well I have to say It is lucrative not in terms of finance but in the terms of self-satisfaction, I derive satisfaction in doing what I do. I am happy, it takes care of me, my family and I still give out stipends to those living around me who really need it. I thank God so much in spite of the disability, I am able to render help to some people.

Agbo: Thank you, thank you so much my brother, I must say I'm very grateful to have chatted with you.



Chris Agbo and Alfred Ehime Olowookere after their chat in our office in Jos, Plateau State



Interview

I SPONSORED MYSELF IN POLYTECHNIC- A WOMAN WITH DISABILITY RECOUNTS HER EXPLOITS AND CHALLENGES



Miss Esther Sunday Makwe is a 37 years old polio survivor who in spite of her disability, she stand tall among her peers. She graduated from Plateau state Polytechnic, Jos where she got HND certificate in Marketing. This beautiful single lady was an athlete but she is now earning a living from selling cosmetic and hair dressing. She is an indigene of Bassa in Plateau State and she has 7 siblings, 6 females and a male. In this interview, she

shared with us how her education was funded, her business and her life with her disability.

Do you recall when your disability occurred and how it happened?

I was told by my mother that I was a year and six months when it happened. She said that I was sick and she took me to hospital where I was given

injection and all of a sudden, I couldn't walk with my legs and the rest is what you are seeing now.

What was life like growing up with disability? i. Did it affect your education in any way?, i. Did it affect your Social life? and iii. How did the society perceive you?

Initially, as a child I never knew I have a disability, until when my friends started

mimicking the way I walk and I had to always mother ask my mother why are my peers mimicking me and they don't do that to others. That was when she explained everything to me.

1. Yes, it affected my education; I started school very late.
2. Yes, it affected my social life and iii. People look at me as someone possessed by demon, different and they isolate themselves from me.

How did your education funded?

My father trained me from primary school to Junior Secondary School 2 and I took it from there and completed my secondary school. Through the proceeds from my shop in Jos, I sponsored myself in Plateau State Polytechnic, Jos.

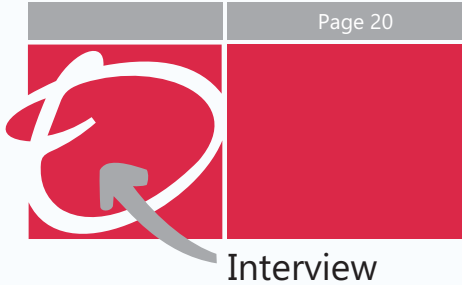
How have you been managing these negative perceptions?

I was always crying wishing I would have being like other people in the world. The society is not accessible for me. The negative perceptions are still there but I didn't allow them to affect my way of life.

What are the notable barriers you do encounter while carrying out your daily activities?

My major daily barrier is the difficulty in moving from one place to another. My transportation is quite high. I wish I have a car to ease my movement.

Are you married or in a relationship, what do



Interview

you think about disability and relationship. Are there challenges?

I am not married but I am in a relationship. Relationship for a woman with disability has its own challenges. When you talk about a woman with disability in a relationship, it is a different ball game. Most men feel because I have disability, they should control all I have. At times they show me their girlfriends without disabilities. They don't care how you feel rather you should be the one begging for their love.

Going by your peculiar experiences of discrimination and challenges you faced, what do you think can be done to make life a lot easier for you as a person with disability?

What can be done to make my life easier is empowering me to enhance my potentials. I need more money to boost my business or as a graduate if I am gainfully employed, it will go a long way.

What is the greatest lesson life has taught you?

Life has thought me that I don't need to sit and wait for people to take care of me, because they will surely disappoint me.

What are your achievements as a person with disability?

I was into sports before going into business. As a sports lady, I won two gold, two silver and two bronze medals at National sports festivals in Bauchi 2000 and Edo 2002. I was able to send myself to school and now a graduate. I was able to open a business that has brought a lot to me. I have organized a capacity building workshop

for some ladies with disabilities to build their self-esteem.

What has been your motivating factor?

The mockery I received from people motivated me to be who I am. I was challenged because they said I will not be useful to society but I have proven them wrong.

What are the challenges you face as a business woman with disabilities?

Presently, what I am facing is lack of capital to expand the business so that I can get more hands. I run the business alone and sincerely I need more hands.

Are you aware of Nigeria Disability Act and Plateau State Disability Law?

Yes I am.

What do you think that can be done to get government fully implement these laws?

There is need for more awareness creation in the state and all relevant stakeholders must get involved. Nothing for us without us.

Going forward, what are we going to expect from you?

I want to explore all opportunities in regards to the business I am into, and I want to build my capacity to the extent that I can stand a chance of becoming the first female president with disability in Nigeria and indeed entire Africa.

What do you think about COVID-19?

COVID -19 is disease that has come to ravage the whole world. People with disabilities are really affected. The business patronage has reduced. Most of us now hardly feed.

How have you been observing the preventive measures?

I put my facemask on in public places, I wash my hands regularly, I use hand sanitizer. I make many people don't come into the shop at the same time.

What do you think government can do to reduce the vulnerability of PWDs towards contracting the virus?

Is by giving us all we need to leave well at this moment.

Disability based violence; have you been abused and what do you think can be done to curb it?

We need to take all the necessary measures to curb disability based violence. The society should be inclusive.

What is your advice for other persons with disabilities?

Please my fellows try as much as you can to be independent. Don't depend on others for survival. Just do the little you can.

20. Your Parting words/Final words.

Finally, I will love this organization to use my story in a way that it will help to see to promote the needs of PWDs. Let the story also be a motivating factor for other PWDs to move forward in life. Thank you for choosing me.



Interview

AMAZING: AMANYI, THE BLIND INVENTOR WHO DEVELOPS SPECIAL DOOR BELL FOR THE DEAF



Amanyi Obeya Ignatius is partially sighted. In fact, his situation could actually pass for complete blindness, but thanks to some medical jargons that still leave him in the peripheral of not been a totally blind man.

However, his physical challenge was not with him at birth; the twist of life became cruel on him when he was about enrolling into JSS 1. "I became blind after I had a fever. It was discovered that I had a small boil on my forehead, but unfortunately, by the time the boil got dissolved, I discovered that I cannot see clearly again. I could only see shadows of images, but cannot identify them. The doctors eventually reasoned that my blindness may be

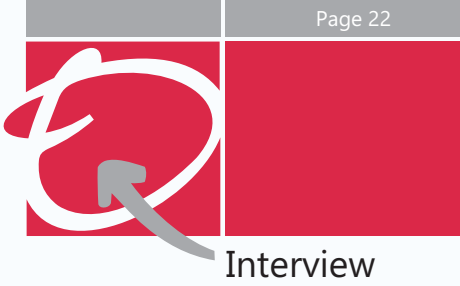
linked to the history of glaucoma in my mother's family because my mum and her elder sister both have sight problems," Amanyi said.

Amanyi's dream of enrolling into the Nigerian military thus became extinct. "I was writing a common entrance examination to go to St. Francis Secondary School from where I hoped to enroll into the Nigerian Defense Academy, Kaduna. I was then in St. Mary Primary School and my teachers could only feel pity for me, but there is nothing they could do."

Out of anger, Amanyi refused to go to a blind assisted school, as recommended by his poor mother who has been vending to take care of

him and his siblings since the death of their father. "It was very difficult for me to accept the fact that I cannot see again. I continuously refused to study with the visually challenged in the school I was taken to and that really delayed my education," he said.

However, eventually, Amanyi became interested in education again because his old schoolmates will not leave. After their classes, "they would retire to my house and gave me feedback on what they have learnt in school. Gradually, I became challenged and my interest in education was developed again. But sadly, I have to now do this with other visually challenged students," he lamented.



Interview

Amanyi eventually went to rehabilitation classes where at some point he also studied with some other children without any physical challenge. He grew in his study and was admitted to the University of Jos (UNIJOS) where he got a degree in Special Education for the visually handicapped, but not without some challenges.

"It was not easy studying at the University of Jos. I had only my elder brother who also has his own family to help, but I became very fortunate when I had about the MTN Foundation scholarship for the blind. My friends told me about it and I went ahead to enter the competition. After the screening, I was very glad when I was contacted to have been successful, but the scholarship meant I must maintain a 2.5 CPGA every semester to continuously to be eligible till I pass out" Amanyi said.

At UNIJOS, Amanyi's encounter with the deaf clicked the instinct in him to build something that will make life easier for them. He created the deaf doorbell known as OB Bell to help the deaf know when someone is knocking on their door while inside.

"The rooms for the blind and the deaf at the Village hostel are facing each other. Sometimes, when visitors knock on the door of a deaf person, they have to do that very hard for the deaf person inside to know that someone is knocking because the vibration must get to a certain level before the deaf person can feel with his body that someone is knocking at the door.

"So as an intervention, I have designed what I call the OB Bell for the blind. The bell is an

improvement on the regular doorbell, but I have introduced light into it. So, when the bell switch is pressed outside the door, it rings and also brings on the light for the deaf person inside to see. Once the light comes up, the deaf person can then open the door," Amanyi explained.

When deaf persons are sleeping, they can still make use of the OB Bell. According to Amanyi, "since the body of the deaf person can still generate some sensitivity, I have designed the bell to generate enough vibration to wake the deaf person, while at sleep when he cannot see the light."

But all of this would not have been possible without the support of the MTNF scholarship. "I could describe my scholarship, as God sent. The Foundation has treated me like a child by providing me with money and materials. Through the scholarship, I was able to buy my computer and also networked with organisations like Anglo-Nigerian Welfare Association for the Blind (ANWAB), which assisted me with the installation of the JAWS software for the blind, which I used with my computer. I have also been equipped with some entrepreneurial skills, so, I render a few other services with which I support myself on another front," he informed.

Still, on the OB Bell, Amanyi is appealing to investors to buy into the project, so, the product can be improved and produced in large quantities to cater for the deaf in our society.

He said, "I am not really looking for fame, but just to fulfill my dreams of helping others who are physically challenged. Having been able to

come up with this device, I will be glad if the deaf in our society are made happy, at least if they cannot speak, they can see and feel. The device is not perfect yet, but I am looking forward to technical partnerships that will help improve it."

While taking care of the deaf, Amanyi is also not forgetting the blind. He intends to study to the highest level and conduct studies that will help address health and other societal issues affecting the blind. "I want to become of Professor of Blindism. I read materials on it online and discovered it is an aspect that is still less researched. Blindism deals with behavioural characteristics of people with visual impairment that is not commonly attended to, but is affecting the blind. For example, you notice that most blind people will always face up when they speak or continuously bend their head to one side when they move or speak. These are some of the issues I hope to research on and come up with findings that will be of help to everyone," Amanyi said.

Despite his condition, Amanyi is determined to push the frontiers of youth development particularly those with physical challenges. As a member of the Conscious Youth Movement, he aggressively creates awareness about people with disabilities. He also features on radio programmes where he speaks to these issues.

"All I want is a world of equal opportunities where despite any form of challenge one may have, he/she can still stand a very good chance so long as the society is willing to provide the needed support," he concluded.



Interview

WE MOVED FROM DOOR TO DOOR IN PLATEAU STATE TO IDENTIFY 400 PERSONS WITH ALBINISM, WE ARE WORKING HARD TO BUILD THEIR CONFIDENCE... ABEL NVEDANGA, TAF COORDINATOR, PLATEAU STATE

Abel Nvedangaa is a dynamic person with albinism born and brought up in Taraba state. He attended his primary school and secondary schools in Taraba state. He dropped out in SSS1 due to financial constraints, while growing up, he later relocated to Jos and was able to complete his secondary school. He hailed from a family of 10 but unfortunately he lost four of his siblings in the cold hands of death and left with five of his siblings. Abel and his sister were born with albinism, sadly his sister with albinism died. He has been in Plateau and Plateau has become a home for him.

As part of TQM interaction with the key stakeholders within disability community in Plateau State, Kenneth Alabaraonye, our correspondent in a working visit to Jos, caught up with Abel who is the Chairman of The Albino Foundation (TAF) Plateau State Chapter. They discussed about his life and TAF programmes in Plateau State.

TQM: What is your educational background?

I started my primary education in Taraba state. After my sister was born, in my JSS2 my parents stopped paying for my education then I started talking responsibility of my welfare. And at my SSS1 first term, I couldn't continue anymore because of the school fees so I dropped out of school. And after sometimes, I relocated to Jos to join my uncle, I stayed with him until I



completed my secondary school in Jos. I wrote my external exams, I proceeded to a Pre ND at Plateau State Polytechnic and later went for Diploma and then HND. After my HND, I proceeded to National Youth Service in Maiduguri. While serving in Maiduguri, I applied to acquire a degree in the University and I started at 200 level. In my HND studied Accountancy but when I applied to get into the University and I got special education and rehabilitation. After that I went to Nigeria College of Accountancy. After that I become a member of other professional bodies like NIM that is Nigeria Institute of Management and Institute of professional managers and administrators. That is where I stopped.

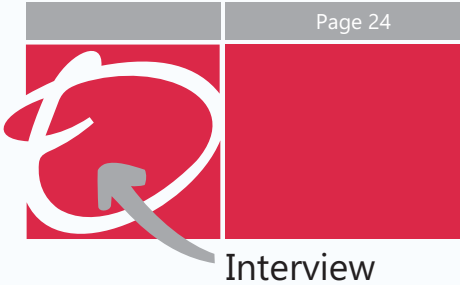
TQM: Can you let us into your working experience?

I started my working early in life because I was working and taking responsibility for my education. I started working as an errand person on the street. I worked as a teacher, I taught music in primary and secondary school and that is JSS level and then I taught computer, ICT computer appreciation as well. From primary to secondary up to Diploma level in a private institution. Later I worked part time with the Benue state government, I was there temporary. I've been here in Jos working for The Albino Foundation and I have been here for a long time working as volunteer coordinators for 13 years before Oxfam Voice grant for a project and I am the project lead or state project coordinator in Plateau state. I am also

the coordinator of The Albino Foundation program in Plateau state.

TQM: How have your works as coordinator on the Plateau been like?

A life of a coordinator has been very tough. I started it alone. Let me draw your attention back to my sister's birth. When she was given birth, that was the cause of my father stopping my education and our family splits. My mother was divorced simply because my father felt she committed an adultery having me. He couldn't comprehend it, he likening me to be a spirit. I was meant to be thrown away but it didn't work out and later my mother ran away with me,



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insisting that I am a human being and so she refused to throw me away. She took me to a distance aunty and from there I stayed there for over a year before I returned to my father's house with my mother when I was already walking. After that it became very tough and my sister later died of skin cancer and that was what encouraged me to go into this, so that I will tell other people about the issues of albinism. This was just a no fault of us that we are persons with albinism. And from there while in Jos, I began to go to door to door in 2007 identifying persons with albinism with the zeal of what I went through and encouragement from my mother. I continued until I came in contact with a TV program, that was when I met Jake Epelle when I had to travel to Lagos to meet him. Since then, I came back to Plateau and up the momentum, moved from local government to other. Today we have identified close to 400 persons with albinism here in Plateau state spread across the 17 local government of the state.

TQM: In creating awareness on Albinism, what is your success story?

We are achieved a lot because before if I am passing on the street, I face a lot of challenges but now the perception have shifted from total ignorance to awareness. Now people are getting to be aware and informed about persons with albinism. That is why we have been on the TV and radio. Just like we are talking to The Qualitative Magazine now, it is also all about the same awareness and we have been creating this awareness and we are still on it. We have been campaigning, building the confidence with persons with albinism to come out and recently we have discovered more and

more. More are also coming out from their hidings and that has been an amazing result. Lives has been changed, about 2 or 3 marriages has been reconciled. They got back together and married and living happily. There are also other people who are coming out of their shell. Get the confidence to speak in public. Get the confidence to speak with other people. Many can hold their head up. Thanks to Innocent Ussah who was able to build my confidence right from the beginning, my mum and others has been very influential in making me confident and the work has generally been successful. We hope that in few years we should be able to build the confidence of persons with albinism in the whole state and the country at large. Albinism generally is not a curse but it is just a condition. So people should know that. And also my life in the department of special education in University of Jos, meeting people like doctor Yaqual really helped me. These are people who drew my attention to the condition and encouraged me to be who i am today.

TQM: On your awareness creation, have you been partnering with other people and organization?

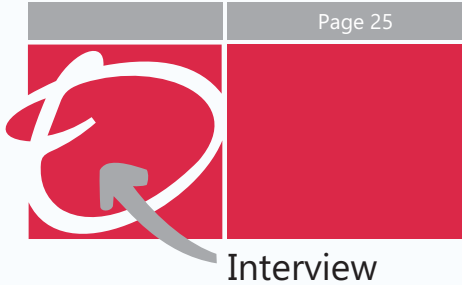
How do you source for resources?

At the beginning I was going from street to street with my little resources through my personal income but as time goes on, people come to our rescue. After some struggle, I came in contact with Mr. James Lalu now the Executive secretary of National disability commission. I also came in contact with the former speaker Joshua Madaki. I also came in contact with other people like the then



Abel Nvedanga in his office

honourable commissioner ministry of local government and chieftaincy affairs doctor Diabu Garba. Those are the people that from time to time I draw inspiration from and now finally, the commission, the disability right commission has also been very helpful. Then other people who helped to also publicized the work like the radios such as Peace FM they started it later, rhythm 93.7FM and a host of others. NTA Jos was very wonderful to us. Every time we have a program, they are always there and is always free. Likewise, The Qualitative magazine (TQM) and a host of others that i have mentioned earlier. The media generally has been helpful to me. They help us to bring out issues that concerns persons with albinism on the Plateau. And in raising money, this is the first time we are partnering with Oxfam Voice as an organization. Otherwise there has been none. Government is contributing a little. Although we really appreciate the support we got from them but we still hope that they we



Interview

also come to our aid in this campaign. We thank Plateau State Governor for reaching out to PWDs through the disability right commission. We have office courtesy of the commission. Our office is located at the disability right commission Jos.

TQM: What would you say are the challenges of persons with Albinism?

The challenges of persons with albinism are enormous but we can streamline just a few. One of the first challenge is health challenges, skin cancer, not everyone has skin cancer but majority of us are vulnerable to cancer. We lack melanin so the skin seems to burn from exposure to ultraviolet light raised from the sun. The sun is the number one enemy of persons living with albinism and the light we see; it could be fluorescent or other ones that has ultraviolet light. Another challenge is our eyes, we use to find it difficult seeing, it could be long or short sightedness.

It is advisable that every person with albinism wear sunscreen and other protective clothes, hat or a face cap to protect yourself from the sun because once you have freckles your skin may like not be same again throughout your life and the freckles when they become severe the result is skin cancer, and things like blisters on your skin. We also have challenge of poverty. Persons with albinism just other persons with disabilities are poorest of the poor. We have also had challenge of education because of poverty and the abandonment from some parents and loved ones, persons with albinism don't seem to go very far educationally. There are quite a few that acquired education to a higher level because

they were lucky to come from privileged families. Or some of us which struggled so much, some people gave up. Statistically, I will tell you that in Plateau state you can count less than 10 graduate who has albinism. They might be more but I haven't met them. At level of NCE, Diploma, we may have less than 15 people out of 300 persons with albinism. We have challenge of human rights violation, laws, policies of government such as National policy on Albinism are not being implemented. Unemployment is a challenge, even with your certificates, you are discriminated upon while seeking for job. From the entire local government of Plateau but the capital Jos, I can't boost up 2 to 3 people with albinism that I know working under the government in Plateau state. I think for now even at the disability right commission none of us is working there. Unless government would try and accommodate us in the current employment. The interview has been conducted, we await letters to be released.

TQM: What is the relationship like between your cluster and the other PWDs clusters?

Before it was very difficult because we were living like bats. A bat is not a rat and is not a bird so that's how we were considered. But with the enlightenment, when we go to people with disabilities, they will say we don't have any disability. When we go to the community of people with disabilities, they will say you can't see well, your skin is white, you are a disabled person. However according to the UN general assembly and the laws, we were identified under persons with albinism due to the fact that our skin lacks melanin and our eyes are not 100 % like the other people. What I mean is

because people with albinism has 2 visual challenges, it could be long sight and it could be short sight. The short sight is regarded as myopia while the long sight is regarded as hypermetropia.

But it took a lot of time, a lot of fight, a lot of awareness before we were integrated. Especially at the commission, the commission played a vital role to explain these to other clusters.

TQM: Have you talked with the commission on the unemployment?

Yes, we have made moves and the commissioner has been generous. It is just that there was an embargo on employment when we met, so we cannot say the commission has been discriminating. That's not what am saying. But am saying that it's an issue of not really giving them my chance before but at this time we are trying to look at how things can be done and then the commission can also accommodate us within the various clusters. Because as at the case before, we have always been going in between, talking to them and now it seems they fully understand our plight and they are willing to accommodate us in everything. In the last 2 years or 3, the commission has been our rally point, so we have a very cordial relationship but sad enough the embargo on employment maybe has not been lifted. I think is just a matter of policy and now that the law is being amended, our issues has been accommodated. We are hopeful that once fully amended we will also be fully integrated into the other communities like the joint association of persons with disabilities which we are also a member but that wasn't



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there before. Kindly enough Plateau state has been one of the leading forces and I was there to represent the persons with albinism.

TQM: What would be your call to people with Albinism who are not registered members of your association in teams of the again the stand gets by partnering with you?

The Albino Foundation has been one of the organizations that champions the issues of persons with albinism. I am urging all people with albinism that are yet to join us to come and now. We are creating awareness, breaking the barriers, building forces because it takes one month to start. Others have started and together we have been trying to do our best in Plateau state but now is the time to call on others too. Together we can build a stronger association. Even if you don't have challenges, but you are person with albinism, please come, together we can tell our stories. There is nothing about us without us. No one else can champion the cause except us. No one understands us better than ourselves.

How have you been creating awareness to your members on the issues of Covid-19 pandemic?

We have been creating the awareness of it among our members, I remembered that the commission sometimes ago brought people from NCDC and our samples were taken and awareness was created and our people were sensitized.

We are also part of the advocates that goes out to our members and the public to sensitize

them that Covid-19 and because just like the case of cancer that we have lost over 10 persons with albinism in Plateau state, so we don't want to lose any member to Covid-19.

TQM: What will be your parting words?

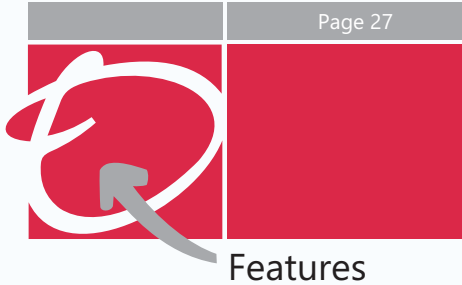
I want to tell the public that there is nothing wrong with a person with albinism but the society. Stop the discrimination especially parents and families, love your child with albinism, support the child for example I am where I am today because my mother

supported and encouraged me and so whatever you say about me, it doesn't bother me. She will tell me some children are flying on airplane but I too will do so, she used to refer me as her handsome son, beautiful and sweet words that made a difference in my life. So as a coordinator I am urging the public to love our people because we are not contagious, we are very okay, we are also good people, we don't indulge in social vices.

TQM: It has been quite wonderful speaking with you sir. On behalf of The Qualitative magazine we really appreciate your time with us. Thank you.



Abel Nvedanga at the middle during TAF Plateau State Programme recently



Features

TQM LAUNCHES A PROJECT TO PROMOTE THE POTENTIALS AND CHALLENGES OF PWDS IN PLATEAU STATE



The Qualitative Magazine (TQM) the Nigerian foremost disability advocacy magazine on Tuesday 21st July, 2020 in Jos organized a one-day project launch/inception workshop of "Connecting our Voices To The World". A project supported by Voice Nigeria, it is geared towards propagating the potentials and challenges of persons with disabilities in Plateau State.

The Executive Director, TQM, Comrade Agbo Chris Obiora in his opening remarks said that the project "connecting our voices to the world" is an opportunity for TQM to continue to advance and promote the rights of persons with disabilities. The project is aimed at propagating the potentials and challenges of persons with disabilities in Plateau State. He thanked Voice Nigeria for making the project a reality and Plateau State is fortunate to the first state that TQM is organizing the "Connecting our Voices to The World project.

Speaking further, he said that TQM team would be glad to see at the end of the project the following:

1. An improved awareness about disability

issues and public change of perception towards disability across Plateau state 2, Improved PWDs access to media services, social services, health services, economic empowerment, employment opportunities and so

on. 3. Inclusion of PWDs in the media programming and the use of disability right terminologies by all media practitioners in Plateau State.

He later made presentation of The Overview of Qualitative Magazine and the project. The key activities in the overview of the the project are baseline survey to assess the PWDs access to media services, health services, social services and the public perception about persons with disabilities in Plateau state, the capacity building workshop of the media practitioners on how to report disability issues with the right terminologies, Capacity building workshop for the OPDs on how to report right abuses and Collection of stories on the potentials and challenges of persons with disabilities and publish them on TQM's website and various social media handles including hardcopy quarterly publications.

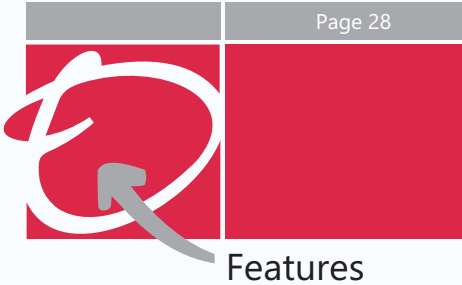
The participants at the event applauded the initiative and pledged to support the team to realize the goal of the project.

TQM boss in his closing remark, called on Plateau indigenes with disabilities especially women with disabilities to take advantage of this opportunity provided for them through the support of Voice Nigeria. He emphasized that TQM is targeting 70% women with disabilities dominance in their quest to collect stories of PWDs in Plateau state because of the multiple challenges faced by women with disabilities, it would be nice to showcase them more through this project.

The highlight of the event was the unveiling of the Project logo which was done by The Secretary, Plateau state Disability Commission. The participants at event are leaders of disability community, CSOs, leadership of the Plateau state Disability Commission and representative of VOICE Nigeria.



The Executive Director, TQM, Comrade Agbo Chris Obiora



Features

ROTARY CLUB BUILDS A BOREHOLE AND TOILET FACILITY FOR VOCATIONAL SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND IN JOS, PLATEAU STATE



By Bulus Baba Izang

The Rotary club of Naraguta and The Rotary club of Jos -South all in Jos Plateau State in their service to humanity and to the Glory of God on Friday commissioned projects which they tagged water and sanitation project 2020/21.

The Projects which include a Water Borehole, a Generator and a Toileting facility were built at The Vocational School for the Blind Zawan, in Jos -South local government of Plateau state.

The Projects were commissioned by ROTN Jumoke Bamgboye, the District Governor R. I. District 9125. 2020/21.

The Principal of The Vocational School for the Blind zawan, Mr. Habila Bulla, in his welcome address appreciated The Rotary Club for the

their kindness and also considering the School to be the beneficiary of their philanthropic gesture.

He stated that the motorized Borehole which was constructed by the Federal government, through the former minister Hon. Sarah Ochekepe in 2015. Pumping machine was stolen due to lack of fence of the school.

The Nigeria labour, Plateau State Chapter, visited us and meet us suffering, because of lack of water. Immediately, they intervene and brought an electric pumping, and ensured the School is connected to a source of power supply.

"Now, the intervention of Rotary Clubs, that is, Rotary Club of Naraguta and Rotary Club of Jos- South, we now have a new running Borehole and new functional Toileting facility. We are very thankful for this great work done in

our school", he added.

The secretary of Plateau state Disability Right Commission, Mr. Karl Gurumyen speaking at the event, thanked the District Governor of Rotary Club HOTN. Jumoke Bamgboye and the Rotary Club for the wonderful gesture they have done in the lives of person with disabilities. Rotary Club has come in a very special way. speaking further, he states that, its not only the Rotarians that are in the community, but OXFAM have equally registered their presence by providing an ICT hall, where the blind students are being train on how to operate Computer, the use and repair of phone. The secretary concluded by providing a good news that very soon the school will be fence.

Sunny Dung of Rotary Club Jos -South, who happen to be the initiator of the Projects, narrated how sometimes in the past, he come to the community for a condolence visit, and heard of a blind student who fell into well while trying to get water from the well. On making inquiry he learnt that the blind students defecate at the bushes around. These were what moved him to initiate the projects. He reached out the President Rotary Club of Naraguta for partnership to make the Projects a reality.

"And the result is what we are commissioning today" he added.

Speaking further, he thanked The Rotary Club of Naraguta and the The Rotary Club of Jos-South for the partnership that gave birth to these accomplished projects in the School. Sunny Dung concluded by calling on persons and organization to come the aid of the School



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as there are other areas of needs.

The Traditional ruler of Zawan, The Gwom Rai of zawan, Fa Christopher Mancha, while welcoming and appreciating the Rotary club 9125, he described it a satisfying day in zawan as the Rotary Club have deem it fit to perform a wonderful thing in the lives of these special people who are part of the zawan community.

The District Governor Rotary Club 9125, HOTN. Jumoke Bamgboye in her speech thanked the Rotarians present, the host community and everyone that made the day a success especially the Rotary Club of Naraguta and the Rotary Club of Jos-South for establishing projects that moves the heart. He said that projects like these makes her feel proud being part of the Rotary Club, describing it as what the Rotarians love doing and they know how to do it best.

Some of the Dignitaries that graced the occasion includes Gwom Rai of Zawan HRH. Da Christopher Mancha, The District Governor Rotary Club 9125 HOTN. Jumoke Bamgboye, Past District Governor, Tolu Omashola, Past District Governor 1998/1999 Joshua Hassan, Assistant Zonal coordinator Duke Doga, Past zonal coordinator Mike Ukachi, The secretary, Plateau State Disability Rights Commission, Karl Gurumyen, President of Rotary Club Naraguta. Lamina Adesoji and Sunny Dung of Rotary Club Jos -South Among others.

In a separate interaction with TQM. The Principal of Vocational School For the Blind, Mr. Habila Bula pointed out the needs of the school which include lack of fence, lack of

electricity, and buildings that needs attention.





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BEAUTIFUL GATE DISTRIBUTES PALLIATIVE TO 1700 PWDS COVERING 17 LGA OF PLATEAU STATE

By Izang Bala Bulus



other basic needs have skyrocketed above the reach of many people. So, the **Beautiful Gate** sees the need to come in to assist by providing food palliatives for people across the length and breadth of Plateau state.

"In May, the **Beautiful Gate** identified about 1,700 people. And today, we are reaching out to that same number people, that is 1,700 people across the three Senatorial zones of Plateau state. Last Thursday, the **Beautiful Gate** was in Shandam, where 600 people were given presented palliative, representing one hundred persons per each local government. And today, The **Beautiful Gate** is here to give seven (700) people palliative, representing the six local government in the Northern zone, including Bokokos, because, their consignment could not be moved to Pankshin for inadequacy of vehicle, so that informed the decision to match Bokokos with the Northern zone", he informed.

"After here, The **Beautiful Gate** will be moving to Pankshin to present four hundred (400)



Chief Ayuba Burki Gufwan of Beautiful Gate Handicapped People center Jos making his remarks at the event

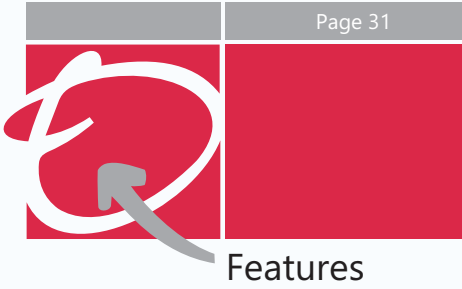
Beautiful Gate Handicapped People Center Jos partnering with Conscience International on Saturday 12th September to distributed palliative to persons with Disabilities.

In an interaction with TQM, Chief Ayuba Burki Gufwan, the founder of Beautiful Gate Handicapped People Center who is also a person with disability said that Beautiful Gate was established primarily to bridge the gap in the approach between polio eradication and the rehabilitation of polio survivors. It was because the eradication of polio took the center stage and all attention were drawn only to prevention which was good but there was nothing set aside to take care of polio survivors. So Beautiful Gate was standing in the gap to ensure that, they ameliorate the suffering of the victims of polio and give them a platform upon which they would rediscover themselves and have a second chance in life.

Now, **Beautiful Gate** has grown passed just working with polio survivors, but has involved in all matters and affairs of people with disabilities.

"And as you may know, the advent of this Covid-19 has turn around the way of doing things all over the world, and this has brought about sufferings largely on families, particularly the downtrodden and the poor. People with disabilities have been worst hit because, jobs have been lost, the economy has nosedive and generally people have been going through severe hardship. This is what prompted the Beautiful gate to intervene" he added.

He also informed that they started first in March /April by provision of food palliative to alleviate the suffering of people during the lockdown. And things have gotten worse between May and now, prices of food and



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people palliative. One hundred each representing the four local government in the central zone, making a total of 1,700 people in all" he added

The Director of the Beautiful Gate, Chief Ayuba Burki Gufwan, called on other organizations, religious bodies and individuals to extend a helping hand to all the needy within their vicinity and all over the world.

Chief Gufwan also called on the beneficiaries to

raise up and live above disability because there is ability in disability, but this ability is only a potential ability, meaning that, unless this ability is developed and harnessed, it will amount to nothing.

Speaking further, he said that he knows that it is not easy, but the solution is not by sitting down, PWDs should raise up, adapt in any condition and adopt survival measures. He further charges the beneficiaries to put the palliative into good use and he prayed that the

palliative should be a blessing to the beneficiaries. He urged them to share a little to others in need around them, as only a hundred benefited in each local government, leaving out much more.

He prayed to God to multiply the little that have been given to a hundred to thousands fold.

The Secretary of Plateau State Disability Right Commission, Mr. Karl Gurunyen, in his speech at the event welcomed and thanked **Beautiful Gate** and its partners for their kind gesture, he also welcomed the PWDs community, charging them to be orderly for easy distribution of the palliative.

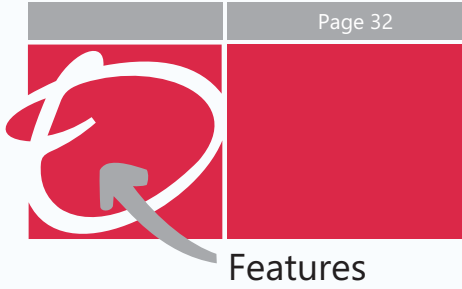
The Director, The Beautiful Gate Handicapped People Center Jos, Chief Ayuba Burki Gufwan welcomed all the people from each of the local government which include, Jos North, Jos South, Jos East, Bassa, Barkin- Ladi, Riyom, and Bokokos while appreciating God for his grace for making the day a reality. He also appreciated Conscience International, who made the contribution to support PWDs in this regard.

Rev. Professor Danny Mac-cane, a friend of Conscience International, a great teacher and speaker who have being in Nigeria for the past 29 years welcomed everyone present. He said, they have been associating with Chief Ayuba Burki Gufwan even before The Beautiful Gate Handicapped People Center Jos came into being. While, talking about Conscience International, he mentioned that they have been working with the organization since 2005.

Stating that Conscience International is the best he knows that have been identifying with needy in the developing countries through



The secretary Plateau state Disability Right Commission. Mr. Karl Gurunyen giving his welcome address



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resources from developed countries. He added that, this is not the first Conscience International has brought resources to the city, they have brought it through another organization, such as Faith Based Aids Awareness (Initiative). The Association have also brought two large containers loads of medical equipment and supplies worth of millions and millions of Naira for free to Jos University Teaching Hospital (JUTH).

He made it known that, Conscience International is a Christian organization, and the things distributed are from Christians.

He said that he came to represent Conscience International and as well Representing Christ Jesus, who is the head of the Christian faith.



Rev. Professor Danny Mac-cane making his remark

Rev. Professor Danny Mar-kane stated three things about Christ Jesus.

1. Christ Jesus is Concern about the needy.

2. Christ Jesus concern about Teaching People and

3. Jesus is also concern about forgiveness.

He later solicited for prayers for Conscience International.

After the distribution of the palliatives, some beneficiaries spoke to TQM.

Victory Maze, a blind lady said that she is grateful for the palliative given to her and prayed for God's blessing for those that made it possible.

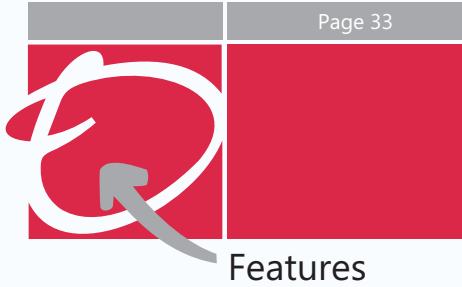
Mr. Ayuba Kadiya, a person with physical disability said that with Covid-19 bringing much difficulty and the cost of living going high, the palliative came in good time.

Usaini Abdullahi Usman, a person with albinism while expressing joy over the kind gesture shown to him by beautiful gate called on government to come to the aid of PWDs especially in this time of difficulty.

Maimuna Auwalu, a deaf lady appreciated the Beautiful Gate for the palliative and prayed God to bless the organization.

Asabe Amad, a lady with leprosy said life have not been easy, but they are lucky in Plateau state to have a person like Ayuba Burki Gufwan of the Beautiful Gate who have being coming to their aid.





Features

TQM BOSS URGES JOURNALISTS TO MAINSTREAM DISABILITY ISSUES IN ALL PROGRAMS

By Bulus Izang



who lost his limbs in an auto crash during his School years, he eloquently discussed the Disability Rights and SDGs, How they related to address issues around the plight of persons with disabilities. He took the participants on the United Nations Convention on Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD), the Nigeria Disability Act. He explained that the act was enacted by National Assembly that's why is a National Act, Plateau State Disability Right Commission (2005) is referred as Law because it is enacted by state Assembly mainly to cater or take care of persons with disabilities in the society. He regretted that even with the existence of these laws (1. Discrimination Against Persons with Disabilities (prohibition) Act, 2018. 2. Disability Right Commission Law (2005). And, 3. Section 42. (2) 1999 Constitution Federal Republic of Nigeria (as Amended, 2011)), many persons with disabilities rights are being violated whereas the laws are aimed to protect them from harmful practices but still a lot PWDs are not even aware of the existence of these laws.

While elaborating on the Discrimination Against Persons with Disabilities (Prohibition) Act, 2018. Barr. Longji said that the Act was signed into Law in January, 2019 by His Excellence President Mohammadu Buhari. The law is made up of 58 sections, section 1 to 30 provide for rights, privileges and responsibilities of persons with disabilities. While sections 31 to 39 provides for the establishment of the National Disability Rights Commission, Section 40 provide for the appointment of the Executive Secretary for the Commission, finally sections 57 and 58 is the interpretation and citation of the Act. He then States that, this law (Act) is to provide for the full integration of persons with Disabilities into

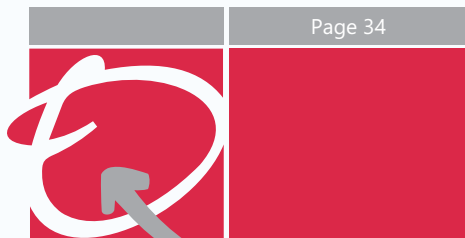
The Qualitative Magazine TQM on Thursday 17th of September, 2020 in Jos, Plateau State organized a one Day capacity Building Workshop for the Media, on Disability Rights and the Use of Disability Right Terminologies in media reportage.

It is part of The Qualitative Magazine TQM ongoing project "Connecting our Voices To The World supported by Oxfam Voice. The workshop was aimed at getting the Media to understand the content of Disability Rights, via the laws and their provisions on rights of persons with disabilities and the punishment accrued in contravention of such Rights. As well as equipping the Media with the appropriate terminologies to be used in referring to different forms of disabilities.

The Executive Director of The Qualitative Magazine, Agbo Chris Obiora in his welcoming remark said that the idea of the media

engagement and adequately enhance their capacity is because of the view that the media is a key stakeholder and the major means of educating and creating awareness in the society in general. Speaking further, he said that TQM desires to build champions of disability issues among media practitioners. He said that if the media doesn't understand the issues, the Disability law would be difficult to be communicated to the public and the public have critical role to play in the implementation of the act. He also said that it is imperative that the media understand the acceptable disability terminology while referring to persons with disabilities because it is what the media dish out to the public that they will believe. Meanwhile such words, persons with disabilities find them offensively because they are derogatory.

Longji Josiah, Esq, a member of Association of Lawyers With Disabilities (ALDIN) and a resource person at the workshop, an amputee



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the Society, established the national commission for persons with Disabilities, and the Commission is vested with the responsibilities for their education, health care, social, economic and civil rights and other related matters.

The various sections of the law touched on important aspects the lives of the persons with Disabilities, such as PART. 1 PROHIBITION OF DISCRIMINATION AND AWARENESS PROGRAMME.

Subsection 1. Person with Disability shall not be discriminated in any form. Subsection 2. Provide punishment for contravention of subsection 1.

Section 2. Provide as, The Federal Ministry of Information shall promote awareness of rights, respect and dignity of persons with Disabilities, capabilities, achievement and contribution of persons with Disabilities to the Society. section. 3. Provide for right to access the physical environment on equal basis with others. Section 4. Provide public Shall be constructed with accessibility aids for accessible for persons with Disabilities.

Barr. Longji thinks this section 4 will face some challenges in terms of implementation. Most especially, with public building in Nigeria which are not friendly to persons with Disabilities. The Act made provision to correct these abnormalities in the section 4. With a transitory period of 5 years which started January, 2019.

PART V. LIBERTY, RIGHT TO EDUCATION, HEALTH AND FIRST CONSIDERATION ON QUEUES, ACCOMMODATION AND EMERGENCIES. Section 16. Prohibits the use or involvement of persons with Disabilities in begging. With a punishment of fine of #100,000.00 or six months imprisonment or both. Section 17. provide that puersons with Disabilities shall have an unfettered right to education without discrimination or segregation to Secondary school level. Section 28. Of the Act provide for employment of persons with Disability on equal basis with others in the labour market.

With at least 5% allocation to persons with Disabilities. With the above, Barr. Longji called on the media to be the Judge in this matter. Does

Persons with Disabilities constituted at least 5% of the employment in the following organizations? Bank of Industry, CBN, NNPC, FIRS, PENCOM, NCC etc.

In his conclusion, Barr. Longji, said as good as these rights and laws are, the media is a major stakeholder in achieving the implementations. The bulk of awareness can be possible through the media. He appealed to the media and other stakeholders to help the persons with Disabilities to achieve this quest.

The second resource person Mr. Joshua Yenle a visual impaired person , a presenter and producer with Radio Nigeria Highland FM Jos.

In his presentation on mainstreaming the Disability issues with the media and the use of terminologies while referring to PWDs. He said that these terminologies are words use by the media to describe the condition of persons with Disabilities which may be degrading to such persons, their family members and as well as friends, if used wrongly.



Agbo Chris Obiora, ED, TQM

Yenle said that though there are still controversy about terminologies when referring to a blind and deaf, the issue of visually impaired and hearing impaired which the deaf and blind are divided on which one is generally accessible internationally. He explained further that at times in the issue of the deaf and blind where there is controversy, put in consideration your location to avoid offending anyone. For example, here on the Plateau, particularly in University Of Jos, they prefer being called visually impaired than the blind, in Abuja and the blind association, they preferred the blind. "For a professional media person, the watchword is to see the person as a person before his or her condition, for example person using wheelchair or person using crutches, rather than



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the Cripple. Instead of Wheelchair bound, use Wheelchair user, instead Crazy, mad man, insane, use a person with mental illness, instead of persons living with Disabilities, use Persons with Disabilities, instead of Albino or Yellow, use a person with albinism, instead of a dwarf, use a little person or short stature and many more which will be sent to you because of time. Yenle described the term Accessibility as not only pertaining to restrictions to physical Structures but it also includes access to information at no extra cost by the blind and the deaf.

The workshop was interactive and engaging, the participants asked a lot questions, they made comments, contributions and commitments to work with PWDs on the Plateau.

Agbo Chris, In his closing remark

appreciated the resource persons for their meaningful and good Presentation, while appreciating the media practitioners and their various media houses graced the Workshop, he urged them to ensure that the knowledge acquired is put to use but also step down knowledge and information to their fellow journalists for a better reportage on matters concerning Persons with Disabilities in the society.

He concluded by advising the media practitioners present to mainstreaming Disability issues in all their programs, He explained that Disability issues is cross-cutting so whatever they are discussing be it economy, politics, sports, science, technology, entertainment etc, they should also bring in Disability perceptive to them.

TAF BUILDS THE CAPACITY OF PERSONS WITH ALBINISM IN PLATEAU STATE ON SELF CONFIDENCE

by Bulus Baba, TQM Correspondent Jos Plateau



The Albino Foundation Plateau state in collaboration with Voice Nigeria organized a One day Training Workshop for its members and other stakeholders with the view to build their social capacity in the society.

The theme is Building Confidence for Persons with Albinism.

The Workshop which took place at Tudun-Wada Jos-South of Plateau state for the Northern Senatorial Zone comes at the heels of similar other workshops held for the Southern and Central Senatorial zones, in Shandam and Pankshin respectively.

It is a known fact that persons with Albinism, like other persons with other forms of Disabilities have for long been subjected to various kinds of rejection, suppression, marginalization and in many cases killing form from family members and other members of the society.

It is then not surprising to see a good number of these people crawling back to their individual shell for protection and comfort, which result in low self esteem.

This leaves these set of people with very low participation in family and society every days activities such as, Education, Business, Religion , Married life, etc.

Considering this, The Albino Foundation in Plateau state, took a giant



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step to help their members by putting together these workshops and invite resources persons to help them eliminate this problem.

One of the resource person, Adah Ruth of the pediatric department, Jos University Teaching Hospital (JUTH).

She gave reasons why a person with Albinism need self Confidence to include:

- Self confidence would help one to move to the next step in life.
- It will help one to overcome self challenges.
- A self Confidence person try new things.
- Self Confidence gives one passion and motivation to do things.
- It makes people to enjoy your company.
- It allows a person to be him/herself, not allowing people's words and actions to affects them.

A Self confident person with albinism to know that his/her body is not perfect, but that is what God has given to work with, the person look for ways to protect it and ways to use it well to benefits him/herself and humanity, She added.

A self confident person with albinism takes needed steps to set and actualize goals with less complain.

She also gave external factors that affect confidence.

- =Negative childhood experience.
- =Negative societal and cultural values,
- =Negative family,
- = Friends attitude, etc.

Adah Ruth also gives steps to build self

confidence.

+First step is to find out why a person with albinism lack self confidence.

+Rationalize things. Like in any situation, one is still better than others.

+Clear old beliefs. Like Albino die young.

+Have attitude of gratitude. Appreciate those good things God have bless you with.

At the end give good Health tips. That include

- × The Use of sunglasses and bigger hats, the bigger, the better
- × Making use of sun cream.
- × The using of thick clothes covering body
- × Routine skin and caner screening every six months.

Dr. Sunday Zakariah of Internal medicine unit, Jos University Teaching Hospital (JUTH).

In his contribution to building confidence among persons with albinism. Drawing from his personal experiences, on how he was able to overcome his challenges and low self confidence in his way to success.

He started by accepting the reality of his condition first , especially, his inability to see well. This helped him to do things differently to achieve result. Like in his Secondary school days, he find it difficult to see what is written on the board, so he changed his sitting position from the back seat to sitting on the floor in front, as the front seats were taken by the bigger boys. Even though doing that was not easy, but, it changed his performance for the better.

He therefore, charged persons with Albinism to device means that would help

them to do thing better and well. This would help them to gain self confidence.

He also advised persons with albinism to do away with self pity and come out to acquire new skills, that would make them relevant in the society.

In an interview with some of the participants, a Mother of child with albinism, Sa'adatu Sani said, she is highly motivated by the encouragement received at the workshop, saying that she is going back home a more determined mother to give all the necessary support and care to her child who needs to have a better life.

Sa'adatu who invited three persons with albinism, also said she have not been disappointed, as the people she invited are all well pleased and glad that she invited them to be part of the workshop.

Ibrahim Abdulkadir a fourteen years person with Albinism told TQM that, he is now more equipped by the training of the workshop to pursue his dream of becoming an accountant in life.

Mr. Abel T. Mvandaga, the coordinator, Plateau state The Albino Foundation, in his closing remark, urged the participants to put in use all that were taught by the resource persons.





Photo Gallery



The ED, TQM Agbo Chris Obiora at Highland FM Jos



STLC Training of the Trainer Workshop in Abuja



NAB Plateau State Chapter during their ICT Training
Sponsored by Oxfam Voice



TAF Plateau State in a group picture during their
Promoting and Protection the rights of Persons
with albinism

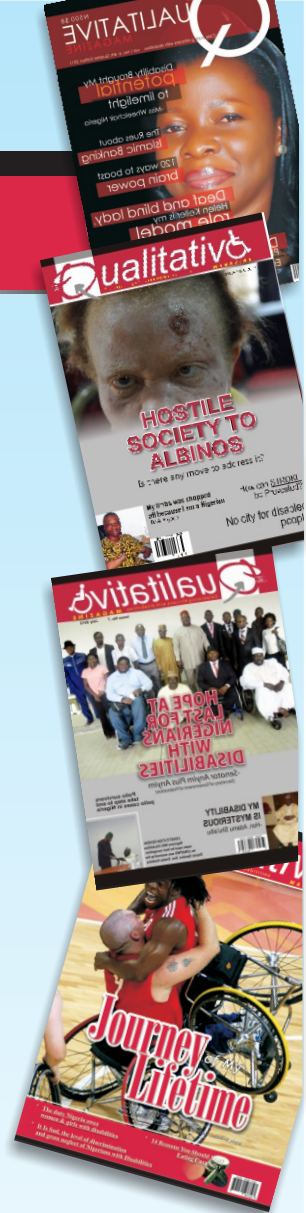


A Deaf woman making speech during STLC
Training the Trainer Workshop



A Person with disability posing
with TQM Researcher





OUR VISION:

A society where potentials and abilities of persons with disabilities are highly recognized, valued and respected.

OUR MISSION:

The Qualitative Magazine is committed to comprehensive media coverage on disability issues from advocacy, prevention, life with disability and capacity building of persons with disabilities

OUR CARDINAL FOCUS:

- (i) Motivating in a special way people living with disabilities
- (ii) Re-orientation and re-focusing of the government and the society on the disability issues
- (iii) Economic empowerment of people with disabilities



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PROJECT THINKABLE

Shifting the mindset of Women with
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Thematic Areas:

STLC RETREAT

MENTORS ORIENTATION EVENT

TRAINING OF TRAINERS

LEADERSHIP TRAINING FOR WWD

MENTORSHIP

COMMUNITY SERVICE

CLOSE OUT CEREMONY



STEPS TO THE
LEADERSHIP CENTRE

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CONNECTING OUR VOICES TO THE WORLD

Propagating potentials and challenges of Persons with Disabilities in Plateau State

Our Activities:

Online and Print Publication of stories, events and activities of PWDs

Research on Access to Media by PWDs

Capacity building of the media on disability laws and disability reportage

Media advocacy outreach on Radio

Capacity Building of PWDs on Disability Rights and Policies

